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First Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, February 3, 1986
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 3, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Grossman: There are only seven ministers in their places right now, Mr. Speaker. If you are going to insist that we proceed with just a skeleton ministry there, to use an appropriate word, then I ask you to delay the start of question period, stop the clock, go to other matters or stand down the leaders' questions.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Why does the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) not just get on with questions of lesser import and save his full salvos for perhaps the next minute or two, when the other ministers will have arrived?

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to stand down his first two questions, we are ready to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to stand down your two questions?

Mr. Grossman: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I ask your assistance in this ongoing problem. This is perhaps the third or fourth time we have had to rearrange the start of question period because of the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and some of the senior ministers.

I see the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has joined us. That will now allow us to proceed.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Minister of Health arrived about three seconds before the rather sensitive Leader of the Opposition got on his usual tirade. We are quite prepared to respond to questions.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of Health.

I know the minister would want to acknowledge to the House that in November the number of opted-out physicians reached an all-time low, dipping below 12 per cent for the first time. In view of that, in view of the fact that the government still has chosen to proceed with a ban on extra billing and in view of the statement by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that he is prepared to accept the reality that some specialists will leave Ontario, will the Minister of Health be more specific and tell us how many of the 26 opted-out specialists serving northern Ontario so effectively and only rarely charging their patients he is prepared to see leave Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is quite obvious none of those people is currently leaving Ontario. I do not understand what the former Minister of Health wants in answer to a question that is based on hypothetical assumptions.

It is quite clear that this government has continued to work in close co-operation with the physicians in northern Ontario to enhance the facilities up there to ensure that we can hold on to the specialists who have been attracted, not only during our tenure but also that of the former government. We are working very hard to ensure that the facilities are improved so those people will make decisions not to leave northern Ontario.

Mr. Grossman: With respect, the Ontario Medical Association has informed the minister about this, as have many specialists, who insist that if this legislation goes through he can expect to see a somewhat similar response to what happened in Quebec.

In Quebec, 287 specialists left when extra billing was banned. An excessively large number of those were orthopaedic surgeons. When that situation was raised with his leader last week he acknowledged, at least to the media, a number of doctors would likely leaving Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, please.

Mr. Grossman: In which areas is the minister prepared to say it does not matter if a number of doctors leave Ontario? Is it in orthopaedic or cardiovascular surgery? Is it in psychiatry, where there is a crushing shortfall? Geographically, is it in northern Ontario? Where is he prepared to accept those losses?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is quite clear to the people of the province that this government is not prepared to see the loss of those specialists. In fact, we are working very hard with the people in northern Ontario to upgrade facilities, an activity with which the member is unable to come to terms.

During the tenure of the Leader of the Opposition as Treasurer and otherwise, he did

not provide enough funding to keep those facilities in a mode that would attract and continue to hold those people.

Mr. Grossman: That is not so.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is so. I have seen the results of the member's inadequate addressing of the problems up there. He does not like to listen to the facts. The people of this province can be well assured that this government is working very hard and in a co-operative manner to ensure that the facilities are put in place to attract and hold physicians in northern Ontario. We will continue to work very hard to ensure that the best quality service is available to all the people of this province.

Mr. Grossman: Now that we are past the motherhood issues and the platitudes about how hard the minister is prepared to work, and the rhetoric assuring the Speaker that the minister is working very hard to keep the specialists here, let us get back to the question.

The experience in other jurisdictions is that opted-out specialists leave that jurisdiction when extra billing is banned. The member's leader has acknowledged that is likely to happen in Ontario. As Minister of Health, he is quite properly trying to address the shortage of specialists in northern Ontario. He has not yet begun to address the problem of shortages of specialists in some areas such as orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, psychiatry and the like.

Given that empirical experience and the admission by his leader that he is prepared to accept the loss of some specialists, how many specialists does he believe we can afford to lose in the medical areas to which I have referred? Is he prepared to accept some, a number or none?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think the member is certainly looking at a situation which has not occured. One of the reasons people are attracted to practise in this province is that the facilities in general are very good and provide them with benefits with respect to practice that they cannot find in other jurisdictions.

Obviously, the member is well aware that no one has decided to leave at this point. If he has some indication there are, we will deal with that. He is asking, "What if?" I deal with the what, period; and right now we are working hard to ensure that the facilities in this province are kept in a manner in which people who are practising specialties will feel comfortable with practising in this province.

WATER QUALITY

Ms. Fish: I have a question of the Minister of Health. In view of the fact that his colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) now feels some levels of dioxin in treated drinking water are acceptable, will the Minister of Health table in this House the results of all epidemiological studies undertaken in southwestern Ontario that have been completed in the last six months?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was distracted slightly there. I did not catch the entire question. I want to indicate I have never heard the Minister of the Environment make a statement that a certain level of dioxin is acceptable in drinking water. In her supplementary, the member should clarify what was intended.

Ms. Fish: Perhaps the minister should have been listening to his colleague when he made statements in the emergency debate and in responses to subsequent questions that indicated clearly he had established an interim level that was acceptable for dioxin in drinking water. My question dealt with the matter of tabling the epidemiological studies completed on southwestern Ontario. Since the minister did not hear it, I ask that question again.

I will also ask a supplementary question. Given the presence of dioxin in treated drinking water in at least four communities in southwestern Ontario, will the minister immediately initiate epidemiological studies to assess the pattern of disease, death and birth defects in those communities?

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to the question about in-depth studies, I am prepared to work in concert with the Minister of the Environment, who is the lead minister in matters such as this. We will be considering the mode in which to develop our studies with respect to these problems. I talked to him about it briefly before today's date.

With respect to the member's earlier interjection, I can tell her the reason I was interrupted was not because of my own member, but because of a note sent from across the way. I apologize for not listening more attentively, but when items come to my attention I like to review them.

I will check whether any studies are available to be tabled. We generally put these studies out for the general public whenever we receive them. I will get back to the member and to the House with respect to the matter.

Mrs. Grier: In the light of the discovery not only of dioxin but also of other organic chemicals in drinking water throughout this province, has the minister satisfied himself that the epidemio-

logical data collected by his department are sufficient for the needs of society in 1986?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was a critic for the Ministry of the Environment at one stage in my political career, and I think it is fair to say the development of new information always overtakes the material that has been collected and generated previously. I can always see reasons for updating and upgrading the information we have. I will take a look at the material on hand at this point and see how we can better bring ourselves up to date, if that is required.

Ms. Fish: I cannot understand how the minister can stand in his place and say fundamental questions of human health are the prerogative of a minister other than the Minister of Health. For the first time in the history of this province dioxin has been discovered in treated drinking water. Will the minister immediately initiate epidemiological studies to track the presence of disease, death and birth defects in those four communities?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member knows the Minister of the Environment, whom the member once was, has carriage of the items dealing with materials in drinking water. What has happened in this case is what happened before. There is a close link between the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health. We are continuing that; in fact, we are upgrading our capabilities of addressing the concerns in the community. We have already had meetings with the medical officers of health. We will continue to be sure public safety is not affected.

All I am saying to the member is that we must put together our information, and if there is a need for further studies see where we can co-operate with the Minister of the Environment and his officials to ensure public health is safeguarded.

ST. CLAIR RIVER

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. One of the many disturbing facts in the St. Clair River report to the minister tabled last week relates to the contamination of sport fish, of which about 150,000 are taken from the St. Clair River annually and are shown in the minister's report to contain the same toxins as the drinking water.

The minister has downplayed the effects of the contaminated drinking water on human health. Can the minister tell the House what steps he is taking to protect people from the double jeopardy not only of drinking the water but also eating the contaminated fish?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As a result of the latest report–and the honourable member knows there was one in November–of the St. Clair River committee of federal and provincial ministry officials, I am now asking my officials, along with the Ministry of Natural Resources, to review the guidelines which will be placed on the fish that may or may not be consumed in this area.

The member aptly points out that a number of matters of great concern were addressed in this report and were brought to public attention. The purpose of commissioning this report was to make the public aware of these matters. One of the disturbing facts related to those fish which were close to the outfalls of the industries, but to be fair, the member is addressing fish beyond even that. As a result, we are currently reviewing those guidelines to ensure that they are appropriate, taking into consideration the new data which have been forthcoming.

Mrs. Grier: I welcome that comment from the minister, but I also point out to him that in his report the same kinds of chemicals were found in the sediment, in the water and in the fish. Many of these chemicals are unique to the processes used by Dow Chemical. In view of what he has said, will the minister use the Fisheries Act to charge Dow Chemical and seek significant fines for violations of that act?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If there is a piece of legislation under which the Ontario government can act, whether it is through the Ministry of the Environment or the Ministry of Natural Resources, whichever ministry fisheries legislation comes under, or whether it is through a federal act, we will want to ensure that evidence is gathered. As I have indicated on every occasion, if there is any violation or a need for prosecution–

Mr. McClellan: What does the minister mean by "if"?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I say to the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), soon to be the member for some other riding, and to the honourable member behind him, we have to ensure that evidence can be found in every case. As soon as we have gathered that evidence–and we will aggressively seek it–we will press any necessary charges. I give the member that commitment.

Mr. Brandt: Can the minister indicate the contaminant that was reported to be 370 times the standard, and will he comment on when that

standard was put in place by the Ministry of the Environment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I cannot comment but I will get the information for the member.

Mrs. Grier: The Fisheries Act forbids any person to deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance into water frequented by fish; so I am not sure what further evidence the minister requires to gather.

I am seeking some indication of specific action to clean up Dow Chemical. What is he going to do to force it to close the landfill, control the discharges and repair the sewer pipes? Without specific cabinet orders to do so or charges being laid, how does he expect that kind of cleanup to begin?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: First, it is not Dow Chemical alone that the Ministry of the Environment is looking at through its investigations and enforcement branch. It is important that the members recognize that we are looking at any possible emitters in this game.

If there is any evidence that any of the laws of the province have been violated by Dow or any other company or emitter, we are prepared to gather the evidence. If the evidence is there now, we will prosecute to the full extent of the law. The member has that commitment.

Regarding other matters raised, the St. Clair River report indicates a number of recommendations. We think they are good and we will proceed on that basis.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Swart: I have a question to put to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I draw to his attention the press release he issued three days ago stating that the ministry's insurance information line can be contacted for assistance on any insurance matter.

2:20 p.m.

Given that statement, can the minister explain why this morning my assistant, in attempting to get information on that line from a business standards supervisor for a constituent of mine who is having trouble getting affordable insurance, was told that in order for her to receive any help from the hotline or insurance pool, she would have to have her broker verify by letter that a number of companies had been contacted and they all refused to offer her a quote. She was told it was unlikely the pool would help out someone who had been given a quote, even if that person could not afford to pay the premium.

Can the minister confirm or deny that the hotline service does not intervene with any companies on the affordability of the rates?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member is addressing two separate issues. We have an information line to help people who are having problems with their insurance. I do not man it personally so I cannot respond to every single response, but in general it has been addressing that problem.

The other part of the member's question deals with the announcement I made on Friday which had to do with a new subscription arrangement. It works in very much the same way as the Facility Association for automobiles. If someone cannot get insurance, they have agreed to provide it. It is not meant to circumvent the marketplace. If people are not happy with the rate of insurance quoted, that does not mean they can call this group and ask for a better rate. They call if they cannot get insurance at all.

Mr. Swart: I am concerned about the minister's nonintervention on the matter of excessive rates. I am sure the minister must now be aware that Ron Cromwell, the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, has stated that the extreme level of liability insurance rates bears no relation to settlements in the Canadian courts, and Nigel Dunn of the Insurance Bureau of Canada has admitted that it is difficult to predict the size of a claim so insurers are being extra cautious.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr. Swart: If the minister has any concern about the individuals, businesses and municipalities that are being clobbered, why has he not instructed the Slater task force as its first order of business to investigate and issue an interim report on whether the horrendous rate increases can be justified or whether they should be capped or rolled back until the task force makes its final report?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The overall problem is going to be addressed by the task force. They have been given their mandate which covers a wide range of insurance problems and they are dealing with it as they see fit.

Mr. Andrewes: I understand that this could be a matter of some interest to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) who is going to Pembroke tomorrow. The minister said that the hotline is not to deal with costs of insurance; it is to deal with specific problems of getting insurance. Could he tell us specifically what his hotline will do for ABC Taxi in Pembroke, which has eliminated 22 full-time jobs and has taken seven of its 10 cars

off the road? Last month, its liability insurance premiums increased to $3,500 from $1,600 per car. Can the minister tell us what the hotline is going to do for that company, so the Premier can help it when he goes to Pembroke?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: When we started discussing insurance there were two problems. One was availability and the other was affordability. When it came to availability, I had members in this House rise and ask, "What are you going to do about this person who had to close down because he could not get insurance?" In response to that we introduced the information line to tell people that we can put them on to sources where they can get insurance.

Affordability is a different problem, and that is something we are looking at with our task force to see if the rates are out of line. Everyone agrees that people are not happy with the rates, but that may be the only way we can go because that is where the marketplace is. The task force is looking at that.

Mr. Swart: Since the minister has refused to do a single thing about these excessive rates and has consistently defended the insurance companies instead of the consumers, will he accept the challenge I am now issuing to him to debate with me this insurance crisis, particularly his handling of it, and the alternative of public insurance plans such as those that Manitoba and other western provinces have, such debate to be in a public auditorium outside of this building with the public and media invited to attend? Will the minister accept that challenge?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The members of the third party continually try to confuse the issue. We are talking about third-party liability insurance. Every time they get up to debate that issue they beat their favourite drum on government car insurance. They are two separate things.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr. Grossman: I want to know about the debate. Out of those two, I am betting on whoever does not debate.

DRUG SUBSTITUTE

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of Health. He will remember when our party first raised questions in this House about a drug called apo-ibuprofen and suggested that doctors had expressed concern that it was not totally interchangeable. The minister first shrugged it off and suggested there was no hurry in resolving this and he did not hurry to resolve it. He took his time, and the pills were on the shelf for an extended period. Subsequently, he rose in the House and acknowledged that the concerns raised by this party and the Ontario Medical Association were right. He then agreed the drug was not perfectly interchangeable with Motrin, and moved to take it off the shelf. Subsequently, the courts have stepped in and said he could not do that.

On Friday, the manufacturer of the drug wrote all the pharmacists saying that the drug remains "fully interchangeable." Since the minister apparently disagrees with Apotex, and he is in charge, what is his next step?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have taken steps, as the honourable gentleman acknowledged, in trying to have the courts allow us to amend the January 1985 formulary. The courts have decided it is not an issue which should be dealt with quickly. They have decided it should be heard by a full panel, starting April 2, 1986.

We also have indicated quite clearly to members of the House that the concern about apo-ibuprofen is whether it is as quick as Motrin in getting into the system. We believe it does not get into the system as quickly as Motrin. That causes a concern where severe or acute pain is being treated. What has to be made clear to the people of this province is that there is no safety question related to apo-ibuprofen. The member opposite would want to indicate clearly that is not the problem. The problem occurs when it is being used to treat acute pain and there is a need for quick action by a drug. That is when there is concern.

Mr. Grossman: That is correct but, with respect, it does not answer the question. We have one drug, Motrin, a brand-name drug. Because of the Ministry of Health, and only because of it, the pharmacists throughout this province can pick another drug off the shelf, the drug in question, and say, "This one is the same as that one." The minister authorized that by putting it in the formulary–

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member did that. January 1985.

Mr. Grossman: That is right. The government did.

Now it has been discovered, and the minister responsible admits it, that the absorption rate is different for the two pills which doctors and pharmacists are substituting willy-nilly, based upon the formulary. Given that the absorption rates are different and we are talking about a drug used for heart cases, what steps is the minister taking to ensure the two are not dispensed as

totally the same? They are different in absorption rate. What steps is he taking to make sure patients are not adversely affected?

Hon. Mr. Elston: My answer to the original question indicated very clearly that the problem with this interchangeable product is when it is used in cases where there is acute pain. That has been and is the problem.

2:30 p.m.

The honourable gentleman raises another possible use for the drug which I do not know about. I am not aware exactly how it is used as a heart drug. I can take a look at that and find out.

I know what is happening now. If there is a concern by pharmacists about whether they should use the drug, they should discuss this question with their physicians, as they would normally. They can do that at any time; they can check it out. They have acknowledged to me that part of their professional duties is to inquire about the appropriateness of a particular medication. As well, the physicians in this province are quite free to write that there will be no substitution for a brand name suggested. Certainly those steps are being taken.

I already have made a request that the reasons for a decision be reviewed with respect to not only our application to the court but also an application to the court by Apotex with respect to the two applications that were heard last week. Those things are being reviewed at the same time.

HOSPITAL BED DESIGNATION

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of Health regarding the potential agreement between University Hospital in London and the Hospital Corp. of America. Is the minister not very concerned that if this type of deal goes through, a two-class health care system could develop in this province, one class for Americans and another for residents of Ontario, one class for teaching hospitals and another for community hospitals? What is the minister's position on this very important discussion that is emerging?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am concerned about the details that have come out to the public concerning this project. I am not aware of the details of it. I do not know the items that have been discussed between the hospital and the private corporation.

In this province only one set of dedicated beds is set aside for a particular group of people. Those dedicated beds are for the veterans of this country, and I think that is an appropriate designation because they have special needs. I would be extremely concerned that no other class of dedicated beds be made available to a particular group of people in this province, in this case the suggestion that they be made available to a group of people from outside Canada.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does the minister realize that if this proposal goes through, we could see this type of idea develop in every border community in the province in an effort to attract foreign patients from the United States? Does he not also realize that the doctors can extra bill and can charge whatever fees they want? We can have our own little private health care system develop in order to generate revenue under the business-oriented new development program because of the underfunding of our health care system that has occurred over the years.

Why does not the minister just stand in his place today, put a stop to it and say it is not going to happen as long as this government is in power?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Let me bring some information to the honourable gentleman's attention. This facility, which is apparently thinking of entering into an agreement, is not doing it solely on the basis of underfunding. It is my understanding from a quick analysis of its net cash position for the last two years that it has run surpluses, so I am not sure this is the reason this discussion has been embarked upon.

I already have indicated I am quite concerned about dedicating beds for anyone other than the people of Ontario in a facility that is funded publicly by the taxpayers of this province. It would be fair to say that if this project is brought to my attention in a detailed manner, it will have a very difficult time in succeeding.

Mr. Grossman: The minister has to look into this a little further, because he will find out, as the Health critic for the New Democratic Party has said, that this approach was made to the American firm because the hospital wants to find ways to raise money to add to its facilities and equipment in the part that is used in the normal course of operations of the hospital. It is very much to raise money and to deal with the underfunding circumstance that they feel they face.

Given the fact that his leader has talked several times about an excellence fund to remunerate doctors who are going to be opted into the plan, and given the fact that the minister himself acknowledged that opting in dentists is going to cost some extra money out of the $50 million he is going to get back from the federal government, it is therefore going to cost money, not save money, to ban extra billing in this province. Why

would the minister not deal with the problem of underfunding of those hospitals that are now looking at the American option rather than spend all that money to opt in doctors in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is way off the mark. As I have clearly indicated, I understand that there are net cash surpluses in this hospital. I am not particularly in favour of looking at beds in a public hospital in this province being designated for the exclusive use of American or other non-Ontario Canadian patients.

We are coming to grips with the question of the level of funding of our hospitals in our way. We shall not be spending a lot of extra money on this extra billing issue as the member would like to say. He is trying to say there is an underfunding problem and has acknowledged that we are addressing it. We are doing more things than he has ever done and will continue to work very hard at the system.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Gillies: My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources.

On Tuesday last, this party asked the minister to outline the negotiations that he and his ministry had had with Hearst Forest Management Inc. regarding the forest management agreement they have signed. Despite repeated phone calls to his office and to the office of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the House still has not been provided with this information. Is the minister prepared to make that information known to the House today?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Given adequate time, I am prepared to make any information known to this House. What I would like to share with the member is that we went into this in depth with the Premier and I am surprised the member is not satisfied with the answer. If he thinks I am going to stand here and contradict my Premier, he is way off base.

Mr. Gillies: I understand the minister's difficulty in this matter. He has the choice of either agreeing with the Premier or giving us the facts.

This forest management agreement with Hearst means for the province a 20-year agreement to supply wood. It calls for the construction of roads and development in northern Ontario, and for Hearst it means financial benefits to the order of $44 million. His deputy minister told the standing committee on public accounts last Thursday that she and officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources were well aware of his colleague's participation in Hearst Forest Management Inc. Will the minister now tell this House whether he was aware of his colleague's relationship with Hearst Forest Management?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The question has been answered and I will answer it again. Everyone knows what the involvement was. Any member in this Legislature who is asked to put any of his or her holdings in a trust, a blind trust, is well within the law on dealings in the future. I do not think there is any question here that was not answered before.

Mr. Gillies: That was six months ago and the minister knew about it. It was six months before he put it into a blind trust as a member of cabinet.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Relax.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is very difficult to hear a response when everyone is trying to interfere.

Does the minister have anything further?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, of course, Mr. Speaker. The FMAs are something that the previous government put in place. They are an excellent way to make certain of our forests and are the kind of involvement that is going to continue to keep trees planted. They did not go far enough and I shall do that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have no authority to tell anybody what to say in this House.

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister assure the House that the schedule for signing of FMAs, which included the Hearst FMA, was not changed in any way after the change in government?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is a good question. The FMAs are not only good for 20 years, they are what is called an evergreen program to make certain that the forests–

Mr. Harris: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I will answer it in my way and not in the member's way. They should not get excited over there; they are all getting hyper.

The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) went to the committee and turned everything around so people would wonder about us tabling things in the Legislature. The fact is he was afraid it was going to show how he ran the thing before.

In response to the member's question, the forest management agreements are going to continue and we are going to address ourselves to them. Any FMAs that are assigned will be

tabled, which is something the previous government did not see fit to do with the reports.

Mr. Grossman: Table the information.

Mr. Davis: Answer the question. Did you move the dates?

Mr. Gillies: Did you move it up?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I will answer the questions in the way I choose and I will not respond to those members in any other way.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. After my exchange with the minister 10 days ago on the question of paying minimum wages in our sheltered workshops, I sent him a formal request and proposal from Amity Goodwill Industries in Hamilton, which provided him with a detailed scheme as to how he might do it at that sheltered workshop with little or no additional cost. Has he received the proposal? Will he comment with respect to whether and when he will respond?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I have received the proposal. I am reviewing it personally and it is being reviewed by my staff. There are some good suggestions in it. I indicated to the member earlier that we are in the process of examining this, not just for Amity Goodwill Industries in Hamilton but also for all workshops across the province. We will respond to it.

Mr. Allen: Given the nature of the minister's last response, which referred to productivity, resources and what have you, I remind him that the Charter of Rights indicates that if we have a minimum wage law we must perform without respect to physical or mental disability. With respect, that does not preclude any affirmative action program or legislation relating to this disability–

Mr. Speaker: I hope you have a supplementary question.

Mr. Allen: If the minister cannot tell us exactly when he will respond, perhaps he can tell us whether he will respond at all to a single request from a workshop such as this, in as much as the program is clear, the cost is very small and the application can be done in a single instance.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As I have indicated to the member previously, there is a natural connection between the wages received at the workshop and the benefits a number of the workers there get through family benefits. I am sure the member is well aware that family benefits are based on need. If they receive a higher wage at the workshop, that reduces their family benefits accordingly. One of the things we have discussed with the various advocacy associations is making sure that whatever changes we make do not leave the employees financially worse off. That has to be a concern of mine.

Mr. Cousens: The member for Hamilton West asked a good supplementary question. Will the minister answer it?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I thought I had answered it. If there is another section to it, let the member raise the question again. I explained why we are going about the process in the way we are. It is important we protect each of the employees as well as the process.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Gillies: I will go back to the Minister of Natural Resources with my question. Will the minister tell this House, as his deputy minister told the public accounts committee last week, that officials of his ministry were fully aware of the situation with regard to the relationship of Hearst Forest Management Inc. with his colleague, and will he tell this House that he made no intervention and had no dealings at any time since his government took office which would in any way affect the successful award of that forest management agreement?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think the question was fairly answered. We knew who was involved, but in the tradition of doing what needs to be done to put one's holdings in a blind trust, that was up to the individual member. The fact we went on with the traditional way of dealing with an FMA is exactly what happened. I have no problem with that. I wonder why the member does.

Mr. Gillies: We and the New Democratic Party have some very serious concerns about this. The minister has not answered the question put by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) or the question put by me. I will ask the minister again whether he intervened in the awarding of this contract and whether the priority list established for FMAs to be signed by his ministry was altered during the period he was negotiating with Hearst.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The process of FMAs has not been altered one iota since the Conservatives set it up. It is a proper process, and it is ongoing. The member knows very well that the FMA has not been signed. Everything will be done in a proper fashion. I do not know what else I can say.

CROP INSURANCE

Mr. Ramsay: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I humbly

submit that it may not be necessary to turn the minister's microphone on when he stands in his place to answer the question.

As the minister is aware, briefs were presented to the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario in November concerning crop insurance in this province, especially vis-à-vis northern Ontario. Last week, the minister was given a brief by northern Ontario farmers. After hearing these briefs and knowing the concern of the northern Ontario farmers, especially about individual insurance for spring grains, would the minister consider bringing in such a program and instructing the crop insurance commission to have an individual crop insurance program for this crop this year, as all the other provinces in this country have?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The honourable member may be aware that the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture are meeting this week to discuss the merits of having a review of the crop insurance program as it pertains to all Ontario, not just northern Ontario.

If they agree to establish a committee to review crop insurance per se, I will be quite supportive of such a committee. That will be the time when the submission of the northern Ontario farmers can be presented, to see if we can take out individual insurance for the various grain crops that are grown in the north. I have a feeling the whole crop insurance program is going to be reviewed.

Mr. Ramsay: I appreciate the answer. My concern is the timing. As the minister knows, the deadline for crop insurance in northern Ontario for spring grains is April 15. We have a 10 per cent participatory rate at the moment. The farmers up there are telling me it could be five per cent or less this year, and if we have a disaster, we are in trouble. If the OFA committee recommends it, would the minister introduce a program for this crop year?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I sincerely hope I will be able to. The member can be assured I will expedite the review. I hope we will be in a position to announce any changes we are prepared to make to crop insurance in this province.

Mr. Lane: Can the minister tell me if the matter can be corrected without going to the arbitration board because there is a problem in the north, or will the farmers in northern Ontario have to go before that board to get the matter settled?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am not sure they are even approaching the arbitration board at this time. We had a committee looking at the conditions in northern Ontario as they pertain to the various crops, the grain crop and the forage crop. This committee made some recommendations, with which I understand the northern Ontario farmers were not too terribly happy. That is one of the reasons I hope we will have a complete review of the crop insurance program. I do not see any need for them to go to arbitration if my counterpart in Ottawa and I are prepared to announce dramatic changes to the crop insurance program. I hope it will be effective in time for farmers to insure their crops this year.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, it will be no surprise to you that my question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. I take it as a personal challenge to get an answer from that minister. I will ask him again and it will require only a yes or no answer.

Since this government took office, has he discussed at any time the awarding of the Hearst forest management agreement with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine)?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I thought I had made that clear. No, I have never discussed it with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Mr. Gillies: Never?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Not at all; never. I am very pleased with the way this came about. The honourable member is laying in the weeds trying to make something out of something that is not true at all, and he knows it. No matter how he pursues it, he is not going to change the story because it is clear and precise: It has been done in an accepted and proper way.

Mr. Gillies: First, that is the first time the minister has come forward unequivocally and said that. Second, his deputy minister told the standing committee on public accounts last Thursday that this relationship was well known throughout the ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Gillies: I have no option but to take the minister at his word. I will ask again the question originally put by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), which the minister has still failed to answer. Was the established priority list for FMAs changed during the period of negotiation of the Hearst agreement?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not think the member understands what an FMA is all about. How can one change the priority? We are talking about a whole area, with other companies involved in doing good for the people of that area. We never talked about changing the priority or anything else. It is going through due process, through an accepted process, and nothing has changed. I do not know what I can do to confirm that for the member if he does not want to accept it. He is trying to make an issue out of something that is a nonissue.

UAW LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Premier. Is he aware the president of General Motors of Canada has threatened our province with the closure of the trim plant in Windsor and the loss of 2,700 jobs, unless the United Auto Workers agree that production and shipments will continue in the event of a labour stoppage in Ontario when the UAW negotiates contracts some time in the future? What is he prepared to do to stop these threats from General Motors of Canada and the potential loss of 2,700 jobs?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not aware of any threats. If the honourable member gives me the details I will check them out. I will look into the situation, but I had no idea of that.

Mr. Hayes: Now that the member for Windsor-Riverside has made the Premier aware of it, is he prepared to seek an immediate meeting with GM officials, during which time he can point out that the workers in this country have a constitutional right to belong to a union? Associated with that, they have a right to withhold their labour when they are legally on strike. The Premier would expect the company to respect that right of the GM workers.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I assume the president of General Motors knows those essential truths. If he does not, I would be happy to send him a copy of Hansard and make sure he does understand them.

I am frankly not aware of the spat that is going on at the moment–this dispute or these threats–but there have been so many threats and counterthreats flying from members of his caucus to others among the capitalists in our society lately that it seems I am just a passive observer of all these things that are going on. It is tough to sort out who is saying what about what these days.

We are the kind of people who try to bring peace and harmony and who try to bring people together. We do not encourage people to say these personal things about each other. If there is any way I can be of assistance in this matter I would be delighted, and I will look into it.

KAWARTHA DOWNS RACETRACK

Mr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, on Monday, January 27, I asked a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and I will address another question to him now.

If I may refer to the Hansard of that day, he said, "I am in communication with them about what is going on," and I assume he meant the Ontario Racing Commission.

I have had meetings during this past weekend with some of the principals involved. They tell me there have not been any communications and there have not been any meetings. Will the minister now give serious consideration to instructing the racing commission at least to issue a temporary licence so the racetrack facility at Kawartha Downs can continue to operate?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the honourable member for his question. After this question was raised in the House, and at that time I told him I was aware of the situation, I did contact the chairman of the racing commission, who was attending a meeting in Florida, and we discussed this at length.

On Friday I had a delegation from the purchasers of Kawartha Downs with a petition of 3,000 names that I have forwarded to the racing commission. I told them we had to get a resolution. They have taken it under advisement, and I am satisfied the racing commission can deal with it.

Mr. Turner: The minister is a lot more optimistic than I am. This affects the ridings of Victoria-Haliburton, Northumberland, Hastings-Peterborough, Durham East and Oshawa, not just the riding of Peterborough. There is a lot of concern. At least 162 jobs and 500 horsemen are involved.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Turner: Do not throw me off the track, Mr. Speaker. I am in full flight here.

The minister said in reply to the supplementary of last Monday, "I do not think it is appropriate for me to intervene until it has reached such an impasse that it requires the minister's intervention."

With all respect, I suggest this impasse has been reached. As the minister is probably aware, there is very serious consideration that this track, if it continues to be left closed, probably will not open again; and if it opens, it will take one hell of

a long time to get its business built back up. Will the minister not now give consideration to taking action to get this track in operation again?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member should know that the decision not to allow the transfer of the racing dates was made unanimously by the racing commission. The racing commission, under Chairman Frank Drea, is made up of representatives of the industry. These are all people who are horsemen and who are deeply concerned about the industry. It is their decision that it is in the best interests of their industry to negotiate for another owner. They are working towards that end. I am monitoring the situation and I still say it would be inappropriate for me to intervene at this time.

3 p.m.

AIRPLANE CRASH

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. I am surprised the minister did not have a statement today regarding the crash of the Dash-8 aircraft in Sault Ste. Marie this weekend.

Can the minister explain to the House what testing was being done on that aircraft and the reasons for the crash, as he understands them, and indicate to the House what progress is being made on the federal investigation of the crash.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Before I left the office, I was talking with Sault Ste. Marie. They are investigating it. People from Ottawa are there. I will wait until they report to me later today.

One thing I know is that the chief pilot and a training pilot were on board when the plane crashed near Sault Ste. Marie airport. Both men were unhurt. The aircraft was damaged to an extent not yet known, but it is considered repairable. We are investigating the incident and we will report.

Mr. Wildman: It is fortunate indeed that no one was injured and that it was a test run with no passengers aboard. However, in finding out this information, will the minister explain the exact extent of the damage, because this afternoon at Sault Ste. Marie airport the aircraft looked as if it had sustained a great deal of damage? Would he also indicate what testing was being done on this aircraft in its landing approach that would have led to this kind of disaster?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will report to the House when I have all the investigation reports.

CHURCH SITE

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister will be aware that the Missionary Church in Markham has been looking for some two years for a new site in the northern, rural part of Markham town. With land values ranging up to $100,000 per acre, they are having great difficulty finding a site.

They have now found a farmer who will give them the necessary acreage at a very reasonable price. Is the minister going to approve that severance, or is he going to stop the tradition of allowing rural churches to be built on portions of farm land?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I met with a delegation from the church a few weeks ago and we discussed various alternatives. I asked whether they needed the full 10 acres or whether they could do with two acres of land. We are taking all that into consideration.

We have made our recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître). If they decide to go ahead and build the church on two acres of land rather than on 10 acres, I do not think they will get a lot of flak from me.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Brandt: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: On Thursday, January 30, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) indicated during the course of my remarks that I was in error when I indicated that the city of Windsor was discharging raw sewage into the St. Clair River. He is absolutely correct. I would like to state to the House that Windsor is in fact discharging raw sewage into the Detroit River, not the St. Clair River.

ST. CLAIR RIVER

Mr. Brandt: On a second point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) made comments to the effect that the former Minister of the Environment, the member for Sarnia–namely, myself–was aware of a so-called blob that was discovered some time ago and that I kept this information from the House.

I say to members of the House without any equivocation whatever that at no time was I aware of any blob on the floor of the St. Clair River and at no time was it ever brought to my attention by any of the ministry officials when I was minister.

Mr. Speaker: I listened very carefully to the member. We do on many occasions allow points of personal explanation. However, I believe–

Mr. Brandt: Points of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Or privilege, yes. Quite often we allow members to correct their own records, not necessarily the record of what someone else has said.

PETITIONS

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY

Mr. Pollock: I wish to table a petition, which reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"Whereas both reports of the electoral boundaries commission have recommended that the townships of Thurlow and Tyendinaga, the town of Deseronto and the Tyendinaga Indian reserve be removed from the Hastings-Peterborough constituency;

"Whereas these municipalities are part of Hastings county and work with the provincial and county offices in the city of Belleville, the county seat, rather than offices located in other county seats;

"Whereas these four rural municipalities have a community of interest with other rural municipalities in Hastings-Peterborough;

"Now therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Ontario Legislature to leave the townships of Thurlow and Tyendinaga, the town of Deseronto and the Tyendinaga Indian reserve in the Hastings-Peterborough constituency."

It is signed by 43 members of the Lonsdale Women's Institute.

The second petition I have is the same as the above. It is signed by 27 members of the Cannifton-Corbyville Senior Citizens.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are quite a number of private conversations. The member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) had to strain his voice to be heard. I know members would not want him to have to strain it any more.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 65, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Mr. Barlow: I would like to make a few comments on the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Just before the member starts, I remind all members again that they are having a number of private conversations. I am sure the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) would be happy if they would have those somewhere else.

Mr. Barlow: As the appointed spokesman for small business for our party, I would like to join in this debate and bring in a few pieces of information and concerns I have and I am sure the business community has about this bill.

This legislation is designed to solve first-contract labour disputes. This Legislature must give very serious consideration to the position of the business owners of this province. We cannot legislate new rights for workers without giving fair and serious consideration to those who provide the employment.

In talking to a number of employers, I am staggered by their stories of dedication to building their businesses in the very early and formative years. Often it almost equates to something out of Dickens novel. They even work on Christmas Day when they are building up their own businesses. It is certainly not a nine-to-five job. The only time they hear about nine-to-five is when Dolly Parton sings that wonderful song. They devote their entire day to working at their businesses and with their employees to build up their businesses.

It is their labour of love and dedication that finally bears fruit. Some critics who are not prepared to take the same risk of owning their own businesses are critical of their position, perceiving them to be uncaring fat cats.

3:10 p.m.

When a business has developed to a point where the owner feels he now has something comfortable, he often finds out, with no advance notice, that behind his back a group of his employees is striving to negotiate a union with other employees. When this group of employees sets out–

The Deputy Speaker: Order. There are many private conversations going on. This is most unfair to the member for Cambridge. It is as if the members think it is the time to have conversations. Will they please carry on their conversations elsewhere.

Mr. Barlow: If members start interrupting me again, I will draw that to your attention, Mr. Speaker.

Once an application for certification has been made, the employer has very little opportunity to discuss openly these matters for fear of being charged with a violation of the Labour Relations Act. An employer feels he could be charged with "undue influence or intimidation." Many business owners have expressed their fear that this

proposed legislation, which provides for the settlement of a first collective agreement by arbitration when the union feels collective bargaining has been frustrated, will severely limit management in as much as it would know the bargaining unit has been frustrated by the business agent and those in the union.

I have often been approached by business owners who have these justifiable fears, and I cannot believe the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) and his colleague have not also been swamped by business owners who share these concerns. I am sure the Minister of Labour heard concerns of this nature from the chamber of commerce at its meeting last Wednesday.

All three parties in this Legislature are together in understanding that long-term strikes and lockouts are harmful to the affected parties, both management and labour. If this bill served to prevent either of these from happening as a result of negotiation for a first contract, I would be in favour of that. However, I do not for one moment believe this proposed legislation would have that effect. One has only to look at British Columbia, which enacted similar legislation in 1974, to realize it clearly failed. It did not lead to the development of a good long-term relationship, and BC has stopped using it altogether, my information tells me.

I do not think one has to be a specialist in human dynamics and behaviour to know that an agreement which has been reached between two parties will be easier to live with than one which has been imposed by a third party, in this case the arbitrator. The Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), who has just stepped out, told us during the recent strike of the teachers in Wellington county that it was better to let them work our their arrangements themselves. If this legislation is passed, it will take that right away from the two parties.

Another province we might want to look at is Manitoba. It has often been cited as a good example of what such legislation can do for people. It has been pointed out what a difference was made by first-contract legislation being in place to allow the Brandon Manitoba Eaton's employees to put a contract in place without a strike, compared to the Toronto situation where the workers were on strike for many months.

Newspaper reports, perhaps two weeks ago, tell us the Manitoba Eaton's employees are not happy with the end result of unionizing and the arbitrated first-contract agreement. There was an article in the paper recently about that. There is a real concern about it.

Even where contract intervention puts an end to a bitter and lengthy labour dispute, history shows that the legislation's long-range objective of arranging a trial marriage usually fails to facilitate the maturation of a collective bargaining relationship. Many imposed agreements are not renewed and decertification often follows.

Ironically, the conditions that necessitate first-contract arbitration often determine its utility. Bargaining units are small, employees are often low-skilled or medium-skilled and the turnover is often quite high; so the union must work continuously to retain its members and their support.

Ultimately, it can be argued that all that first-contract arbitration or imposition achieves is delayed union busting, without the attendant glare of publicity that is present during the initial "recognition" strike.

Just for a moment, let us give some attention to the Ontario economy, whose reputation is already suffering in depicting Ontario as a good place for foreign and domestic manufacturers to invest. While it is all very nice to introduce legislation that will enshrine rights for workers, we must consider whether there will be any work for the workers if we do not protect the business environment in our province. We must be careful that we do not vote for legislation designed for short-term political gain rather than for long-term and sensible management of our economy. If the legislation does not foster Ontario's ability to compete in Canadian and foreign markets, then in the end we have failed both the workers and the business owners.

This legislation will hurt us economically because Ontario's manufacturing-based economy, unlike other jurisdictions' resource-based economies, depends so much on capital, which can flee from our grasp. Capital will undoubtedly flee if our national government relaxes the trade barriers while Ontario is busy expanding workers' rights.

The government will not expect me or my party to support this bill when we consider what this legislation could do to damage our somewhat fragile economy, which is dominated by small-sized and medium-sized business; when we consider that the legislation is displeasing to businesses and when, as I understand from talking to many workers, it will not totally satisfy workers either; when we consider that the desire to avoid the economic loss of a strike or a lockout is the best catalyst to resolve difficulties in collective agreements; when we consider that compulsory arbitration is a serious infringement

on the freedom to contract, which is what labour relations is all about; when we consider that the term "collective bargaining being frustrated" has not been tested and could easily end up being just another hurdle for unions to contend with, as opposed to bad-faith bargaining, which already has a well-established legal test; and, finally, when we consider that the Ontario Labour Relations Board has shown it can handle a situation in which an employer has refused to bargain or has bargained in bad faith.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: I rise to speak on this bill. First, I will explain that my good friend and colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) is unavoidably away on very personal and tragic business today. There was a death in the family, not in his immediate family, and he cannot be here.

I am honoured to speak on his behalf. As a person who has been around this Legislature for 15 years, I do not think there is any single person in the Legislature who has done more to advance the cause of working men and women and the cause of the labour movement in this province than my colleague the member for Hamilton East.

On almost every single issue that concerns working men and women in this province he has raised questions in the Legislature time and again during the last 10 years of his tenure. He has also put forward positive suggestions about remedying some of the injustices that are visited upon the working men and women of this province.

I consider it a great honour to be speaking in his place and I hope I can do the subject we face this afternoon the same justice that he would. I know I cannot bring the direct passion and personal concern that the member for Hamilton East has, but I hope I can represent him and my party adequately in this debate.

We rise to support the legislation, although we do so with some reluctance because we recognize the weaknesses in the legislation. It is not the kind of first-contract legislation we would have drafted. After we get it through second reading, we will be proposing amendments at the committee stage that we think will simplify the legislation and meet a number of concerns that have been raised about it by the labour movement.

I find the position of the official opposition on this matter very interesting. If I may say so, it warms the cockles of my heart to find that the official opposition has settled into the role of opposition so nicely, so permanently and so negatively. They have opposed every single progressive piece of legislation that has been brought forward.

They are opposed to the extra billing legislation, although how they are going to vote on it we have not yet found out. I was interested to watch the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) on Provincial Affairs on Saturday night, saying he was opposed to government legislation on that matter without giving any positive alternative. They also are opposed to the legislation that would bring some order into the Ontario drug benefit plan and they are opposed to this legislation. I take those three examples because they are fairly controversial.

There is no question that they are all difficult topics, but the Conservative Party has not offered any positive alternatives. They have not made any suggestions about how the legislation should be brought in that would remedy the problems in these three instances and get on with the job. I think there is a certain amount of ambivalence and divisiveness, if not hypocrisy, on the part of the official opposition on these three issues.

In the speech from the throne we had on June 4—was it that recently, or that long ago? A week is a long time in politics and there has been a lot of water under the wooden bridges of Muskoka and elsewhere since that time. If I recall correctly, in the speech from the throne read on behalf of the government by the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), then the Premier, a commitment was made to bring in first-contract legislation. They indicated that they would be moving forward. I know they would not be moving forward with the kind of legislation we would be introducing. When the Liberal government will not do that, I sure as heck know that the Tory government would not be bringing in legislation that would give the direct right to arbitration; so what kinds of games are we having played here?

We heard a good deal of talk about the need to be fair, and I agree with that. It is important to be fair to both employees and employers in this province, and first-contract legislation does that. The reason I think first-contract legislation does that is because it achieves what the preamble to the Labour Relations Act—which is one of the few acts in this province that actually does have a preamble—says it is supposed to do: promote harmonious relations between employers and employees.

Those of us who have been around this Legislature for 10 years or more know the need for this kind of legislation. We have seen too

many acrimonious and bitter disputes about and surrounding negotiations. The bitterest and most acrimonious of those disputes have inevitably been around first contracts. The Eaton's strike, the Fleck strike and, if I may say so, on a federal level the Visa strike. Even recently, the steps taken by the employer in that instance to try to get it referred to, I believe, the Supreme Court, indicate that there still is a need for some employers in this province to be brought into the 20th century.

By and large, it is not the small business employers who are opposed to first-contract legislation as my friend to the right tries to say; it is the gigantic employers who are opposed to first-contract legislation. It is people such as the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce–people who run the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce; I would then be grammatically correct–and it is people such as those who run Eaton's, those who run Kresge who are opposed to first-contract legislation.

There has been in this province, and often in this Legislature from the Conservative Party and from the Liberal Party, a lot of criticism of the labour movement. The criticism of the labour movement basically boils down to this. They have said to the labour movement, "Why do you people not go and help the unorganized?" One of the major criticisms made of the labour movement in our society and by politicians who like to bash the labour movement, one of the criticisms that they have engaged in is this: "You look after your own members and you do not go out and organize the unorganized. You do not go out and help those people who are earning minimum wage and marginal wage."

3:30 p.m.

If one knows anything about union organizing, labour relations and collective bargaining, one knows how difficult it is to organize. In the first place, it is difficult to sign up the members, because often the workers are scattered. They may be at the work place, but they live in all kinds of different locations. But even after one has signed up and got a certification in this province, does that mean one can settle right down to harmonious bargaining? In this province, I am afraid, in many instances the answer to that question has been no.

One of the reasons it is so important that the labour movement be given the tool of tough and good first-contract legislation is so that it can organize the unorganized and can represent those people in our society who now do not have the protection of a collective agreement.

I am the Treasury critic for our party and I look at the statistics of where the work force is growing and diminishing. I know very well that basically the only growth area in job creation is the service sector, and often in part-time jobs. That area is where the labour movement needs the clout of first-contract legislation so it can get collective agreements to cover those employees. It is going to be increasingly important that employees, and part-time employees who are unionized, be covered by collective agreements.

We in the New Democratic Party have pushed for first-contract arbitration as a democratic right, and this is where I want to get into some criticism of the legislation. We do not believe the amendments to the Labour Relations Act introduced by the Minister of Labour, which require proof an employer has adopted a noncomprising position "without reasonable justification" or has failed to make "reasonable efforts" to reach an agreement before binding arbitration will apply, are the route to go.

The legislation as currently drafted gives too much discretion to the Ontario Labour Relations Board to interpret employer behaviour. What it does in a kind of cute way is to have the Ontario Labour Relations Board make a finding of bad-faith bargaining for a party to be able to appeal and get binding arbitration. We all know how difficult, if not impossible, it is to get a finding of bad-faith bargaining.

I refer specifically to the S. S. Kresge strike in my riding. In that strike, which was settled just before the deadline by some adroit work on the part of the bargaining agent for the Kresge workers in Thunder Bay, the company in effect failed to talk to the union for five months. They opened negotiations in February, and by the end of August they had talked and bargained once. If that is not bad-faith bargaining, it is such a total disregard of what is involved in the collective bargaining process and such an obvious desire to get around the bargaining process that it amounts to bad-faith bargaining.

What strikes me about this legislation is that the hurdles put in the way of the workers are too great to make this legislation effective. With the number of cases increasingly being referred to the labour relations board, there would be such a backup in the cases to be heard that one could not use the mechanism effectively. In other words, the Liberals just could not do it right. They had to put hurdles in the way of the workers.

There is a fundamental problem with this proposed legislation. The fight around first contracts is about whether arbitration is offered

as a right or a remedy. The labour movement has argued that a union should not be forced to jump through hoops to get to arbitration and should not have to prove the employer has bargained in bad faith to get a remedy from the board. We agree with that view.

Basically, the Liberals have rejected the perspective of the labour movement. They have rejected compromise positions. Subsection 40a(2) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill as it now stands, establishes the preconditions to first-contract arbitration and gives the board the authority to decide whether those preconditions have been met. If I might quote it, the subsection reads:

"(2) The board shall consider and make its decision on an application under subsection (1) within 30 days of receiving the application and it shall direct the settlement of a first collective agreement by arbitration where it appears to the board that collective bargaining has been frustrated because of,

"(a) the refusal of the employer to recognize the bargaining authority of the trade union;

"(b) the uncompromising nature of any bargaining position adopted by the respondent without reasonable justification;

"(c) the failure of the respondent to make reasonable efforts to conclude a collective agreement; or

"(d) any other reason the board considers relevant."

We say that is not good enough. What is an uncompromising bargaining position that has a reasonable justification? Can the minister explain that to me? I cannot. How can one justify the uncompromising nature of any bargaining position? It is a contradiction in terms, and yet it is in the legislation and it will be the loophole that companies and the Ontario Labour Relations Board will use in order not to impose a contract. The mind boggles at the idea that one would give that kind of legal loophole to an uncompromising employer to drive his union-busting truck through.

We in this party say that the workers must have the right to go directly to arbitration if negotiations drag out. Frankly, we will attempt to amend the bill in committee to achieve it.

Mr. Martel: The Tories will hope to make it tougher, even more miserable.

Mr. Foulds: I suspect the Conservative Party will support us on that. I am sure that in committee stage they will see the light of progress and the light of inspiration to support us on that.

I want to conclude by saying this. I know from direct and personal experience that first-contract legislation is absolutely essential to bring harmonious labour relations to this province. I know from my experience in the Port Arthur Clinic strike in the community of Thunder Bay, a first-contract dispute that occurred more than 11 years ago and caused scars and disruption that are still felt in that community, that legislation imposing a first contract is absolutely essential.

I know that legislation which gives workers the right to appeal directly for the arbitration mechanism when they choose is essential. That strike, in which the medical doctors, as the employers, would not give their employees the right to bargain, was a bitter dispute. It tore our community apart. It pitted family against family and it was one of the saddest days in Ontario's labour relations history.

3:40 p.m.

If we had had first-contract legislation, good, tough, sensible first-contract legislation, we could have saved not only a lot of anguish but also a lot of destruction to a community. I see first-contract legislation as a healing mechanism; I see it as a progressive mechanism. For that reason, we in this party, and I personally, will be supporting this legislation and we will be doing our damnedest to amend the offending clauses in committee.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I will try to be relatively brief because I know the House wishes to return very quickly to Bill 94 and resume that debate so we can hear the new items and issues.

Let me first deal with the remarks of the official opposition, particularly the Labour critic, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). I want to indicate my surprise that the official opposition has apparently indicated it is not prepared to support the legislation.

I want to put on the record the remarks of the former Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable John Black Aird, in reading the speech from the throne prepared by the former government on June 4, 1985:

"Amendments will be introduced to enhance collective bargaining rights. A procedure will be proposed to enable first agreement arbitration to be requested when the normal processes of negotiation, conciliation and mediation have failed to produce a collective agreement following the acquisition of bargaining rights."

That is a direct quote from the throne speech. That was June 4, 1985, and obviously the position of the Conservative Party has changed, and changed for the worse. The change of the

Conservative Party is to a position that is totally unacceptable to the government. As I understand it, the member for Brantford would want to tie first contract arbitration to some perceived need to modify the certification process.

There is an underlying assumption I want to put on the record that the member has suggested in terms of wishing to modify the certification process, and that is that there is either a failure of honesty or a failure of understanding on the part of workers who have voted to form a union.

Mr. Martel: Or both.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Or both, says the member for Sudbury East.

The government believes it is neither. The government believes that certification is neither a dishonest nor incomprehensible act. Workers understand what they are doing, and there is no need to modify the certification process.

Mr. Gillies: On a point of privilege: The minister seems to be suggesting I implied there was something dishonest about people coming together to represent themselves to their employers. I would suggest the minister is misrepresenting my remarks and misleading the House.

The Deputy Speaker: The minister in his comments gave several alternatives, one of which was a lack of understanding, another was a lack of honesty and another was a lack of both; and on the latter he deferred to the member for Sudbury East. Therefore, he was not accusing the member for Brantford of anything in particular.

Mr. Martel: They were selling the manufacturers' association blind last week, all afternoon.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I will deal briefly with the certification process. The government believes the certification of a union without a vote is justified only where there is clear evidence of majority support or where the misconduct of employers is such that a vote would not reveal the true desires of employees. It seems to me that is the proper balance.

The honourable member also suggested there is a problem employers would have in terms of the certification process and continuing the fight beyond the certification process. I suggest the honourable member read the bill. The ability of a trade union to get access is certainly allowed for exactly that kind of matter.

The member for Brantford also indicated the time limits for the arbitration process and for the determination on access are too short. I am prepared to hear, and I am sure I am going to hear some arguments in committee, that perhaps this is one issue where both business and labour will be in agreement, but the time limits are short. They are meant to be stringent. The government believes that once a party has gone through the certification and bargaining and believes it is necessary to use the mechanism of first contract arbitration a decision ought to be made quickly. After all, we often have a situation where workers will already be on the picket line, losing wages day in and day out.

It is going to demand of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, of arbitrators and of those in the legal profession who will represent both sides, that they get their act together quickly. The only group that stands to be hurt by the failure of the process to move forward quickly is the legal profession, and the government is more concerned that the process move to a speedy resolution.

The member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), who is the only other speaker for the official opposition, indicated that the legislation does not seriously consider the position of the small business owner. I suggest, in the light of the remarks made of my friends in the third party, that the legislation does represent a very balanced approach.

The member for Cambridge is a good friend of mine and I do not want to misquote him, but he said something about the concern that the businessman might have when behind his back is a group of employees striving to negotiate a union. I can only say to him and to the members of the official opposition who apparently agree with that point of view that it is the right of workers to form a union. It is not being done behind anyone's back. They have the right to attempt to form a union in order to bargain collectively. I do not think our society has moved to the point where we want to throw that out.

The member for Cambridge also suggested that this legislation is taking away the rights of the parties to work out their own arrangements. I will use that as a link to my comments on the remarks of the third party, that we wish to have, and I think all members of the Legislature wish to have, agreements reached between the parties. It is a given that agreements reached between the parties are preferable to those that are imposed through arbitration.

This legislation does not take away the rights of the parties to negotiate their first agreement. I believe it enhances the opportunity to negotiate agreement, understanding that what we on the government side and as a Legislature ultimately

want is not only to have a first agreement but also to have a second and a third and a fourth, a collective bargaining relationship that continues well into the future.

There were a number of speeches from my friends in the New Democratic Party which raised a common theme, that the level of restrictiveness of the access would lengthen the proceedings and that the access level was too restrictive. I look forward to hearing from my friends in the third party, and indeed from the leadership of the trade union movement, during the committee hearings.

Without prolonging this, I think the will of the government is very clear. We wish to have either party able to access this arbitration without a finding of bad faith. We believe we have gone beyond the bad faith test. That view is not entirely shared by all in the Legislature, including the leader of the third party, but we will have an opportunity in committee to debate section 2 of the bill in great detail. I welcome that and invite the members to bring forward their comments.

3:50 p.m.

I have already been served notice in these speeches of some amendments that will come forward. In terms of the length of legal proceedings, the legislation attempts in effect to fast-track the matter to where it ought to be. My friends in the third party and all members of the Legislature, viewing as we have the matters in Manitoba and the recent announced challenge to the Canadian Labour Relations Board ruling which is not even out yet, understand that in 1986 there is apparently no way to fast-track anything. Those who wish to slow down a process legally, whether the access is automatic, as it is in Manitoba, or whether the access is at a minister's office in the first stage and then with the board, as it is federally, or whether the access is at the board level, as is proposed in this legislation, may do so. No matter where that kind of power lies, the power of those who wish to legally challenge these matters apparently goes on.

The leader of the third party expressed a concern about the open-ended nature of the minister's right to extend time periods. I understand that. I hope we can discuss this more in committee. We intend the time limits to be followed. One needs an "out" in cases where illnesses arise, in situations where extensions are needed. Clearly, we mean to have the time limits followed and not extended on a whim.

My friend the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) did an admirable job of pinch-hitting for the very knowledgeable member for Hamilton East. He spoke mainly of the level needed to gain access to arbitration. The government disagrees. We believe the appropriate balance has been found that, I hope, will lead to fewer matters going to arbitration and will allow first contracts to be reached in virtually all cases.

I look forward to the committee discussions and to carefully monitoring the real findings afterwards, as the legislation goes forward as it has in Manitoba and other jurisdictions. As the member for Port Arthur suggested in asking what a certain clause means, those clauses can only be completely understood after they are interpreted using individual cases.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Hon. Mr. Wrye has moved second reading of Bill 65, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

4:12 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Wrye's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bossy, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaître, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter, Laughren, Mancini;

McClellan, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, Offer, O'Neil, Polsinelli, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., South, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Baetz, Barlow, Cousens, Davis, Eves, Gillies, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Leluk, McCague, McFadden, McLean, Pollock, Rowe, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve.

Ayes 59; nays 24.

Bill ordered for standing committee on resources development.

HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for

rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

Mr. Andrewes: For the House leader's benefit, I would like to capsulize some of the comments I made earlier in case he missed the important issues to which I was alluding. I was anxious to locate in Hansard some comments made earlier by the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan), but I have not had time to do that so I will not be distracted from the substance at hand.

When we adjourned on Friday, I was in the midst of enumerating a number of concerns, particularly for the Niagara region, that are prevalent regarding health care and the whole question of accessibility to health care. Since this is the subject of the bill and of this debate, I think it is appropriate we restrict our comments to this question of accessibility, although some of my colleagues have on occasion perhaps wandered a touch off course. I have been on the subject in some detail and perhaps at some length, but I have stuck to my subject since the beginning of my turn in the debate.

I want to continue to discuss with the members of the House the whole question of accessibility and the problems in the health care system that I began to enumerate on Friday with respect to accessibility.

In most regions of the province, the government has instituted what it calls health councils. Health councils are advisory groups. There are representatives of the communities, elected people and appointed people, in some cases representative of the disciplines and the profession. For the most part, health counsils are charged with the responsibility of setting priorities for health care within a region.

The Niagara District Health Council sets the health priorities for six provincial ridings and makes recommendations with respect to its activities to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and bodies that are deliverers of health care in the region.

4:20 p.m.

I mentioned that the health councils' role is to identify priorities, and certainly when it comes to health care priorities are very difficult to identify. Nevertheless, the health councils are charged with making recommendations on the allocation of scarce resources. I do not think any member in this chamber would dispute that.

Those scarce resources, of course, are the resources of dollars to buy the necessary equipment, to replace existing institutions, to expand existing institutions and to build new ones–in fact, to enhance the health care programs throughout a particular region of the province.

Each region has its anomalies; each region has its specific needs; each region has its specific goals. Health councils are designed to determine those needs and ambitions and to act as bodies that can bring them to the surface.

As I deal with the various needs within the Niagara region and with the various problems of accessibility, I cannot help mentioning the health councils, because it is through them that some of these priorities are identified and through them that some of these needs are brought forward.

At the end of Friday's debate, I was halfway through my list of the needs in the Niagara region. I had reached the point where we were discussing the question of home care, particularly home care for seniors.

This is a very necessary direction for the health care system to go. There are a number of senior citizens in this province who find themselves in some cases alone, in other cases unable to look after their husband, wife or partner in their current living conditions, and who resort, after a great deal of anxiety in many cases, to moving to a seniors' home, a nursing home or a home for the aged.

The balance in that lifestyle and the warmth of their own home setting, where in some cases they have been for 30, 40 or 50 years, are disrupted; indeed, their whole life is disrupted. Some go willingly to another location; others would be much happier and much better off if they could remain in their home. That is why these programs of home care were instituted.

It was my privilege last spring to be able to make some announcements, along with my colleague the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), that were directed specifically towards expanding the home care services that are now delivered to many parts of the province.

Again, there are needs. The need is always greater than the resource. As we look at the needs within the Niagara region, home care is one to which we must direct ourselves and our attention.

I mentioned very briefly on Friday the whole question of community-based health care programs, programs that are offered perhaps through the local health unit or by a provincial organization such as the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation; however, the programs that in many cases are run by volunteers who draw resources from the province or from some fund-raising effort in order to

maintain themselves, are the programs that are most important at the community level.

Their importance cannot be stressed enough, because they are attempts to rehabilitate, in a community setting, an individual who finds himself or herself ill as a result of an addiction, without the disruption of a long-term stay in a hospital or in some institution, so he can return to his normal lifestyle and can align the rehabilitation activities with his day-to-day life.

About two years ago I was made aware of a situation in the Niagara region. A program was being offered by a psychiatrist operating out of the St. Catharines General Hospital. He was concerned that there was no ongoing care for psychiatric patients after they were discharged. He was proposing to utilize the resources and skills of the health unit, particularly of the public health nurses, to maintain an ongoing treatment base for individuals after they were discharged, to make sure they were adjusting to community life and were making an attempt to return to a normal life, and to assist them in problems of housing, employment and readjustment to community life.

To my knowledge, that program still awaits funding, still represents a blockage in our total health care system, still sits there as something yet to be done and can be described in terms of accessibility as negative. It is a problem one can add to the list, and I want to do that.

I do not want to contribute to this debate without alluding to the needs of abused women and the need to provide shelter and an opportunity to move out of the home environment, if that is necessary, and to be able to make a life and adjust to a different situation.

On Friday I mentioned the problems in the Niagara region with respect to the associations for the mentally retarded, their constant requirements for day care and residential care, and the problems of integrating mentally handicapped youngsters into a normal school environment.

I also want to draw attention to concerns in the Niagara region about cancer treatment. The centres, particularly in Hamilton, remain as the sole source of cancer treatment for the Niagara region. Facilities are in drastic need of updating. Last spring it was a rather pleasant duty for me to write to a hospital that it could begin planning for rehabilitation. That was welcome news to the entire Niagara region.

The Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines has on record a very innovative, competently planned program for cancer rehabilitation that would provide greater access for people, particularly outpatients requiring daily treatment, without their having to travel the distances involved—in some cases 30, 40 or 50 miles one way—in travelling to Hamilton for the necessary treatment.

4:30 p.m.

We have also heard about the concerns of the more famous institutions such as Princess Margaret Hospital. I have a figure I think is current. Perhaps the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward) would like to check it. In my recollection, the cost of the renovations necessary to bring Princess Margaret Hospital up to the standards of a hospital competently operated for cancer treatment in the mid-1980s is in excess of $50 million. If that figure sounds familiar, it is because it is often used as the amount the government is allegedly losing in grants from the federal government.

I want to illustrate another problem related to accessibility. It relates well to the question of home care, the ongoing innovativeness of the health care system and the need for us to be innovative in designing a system that is not only effective but also efficient.

I draw to the minister's attention a news article that appeared on September 10 in the Hamilton Spectator. I will not begin to cast aspersions on that journal, as some might suggest I did with respect to other newspapers. This article, complete with a picture, cites the case of a young couple who live in the Thorold area, whose son was born prematurely more than 17 months ago.

The article suggests that since he was born his parents have spent every hour of every day fighting for their son's life. The child has a lung condition called bronchial pulmonary dysplasia. He must remain attached to an umbilical cord of sorts, a plastic hose carrying warm, moist, oxygen-enriched air through an opening in his throat to his damaged lung. He has had a tracheotomy and there is a tube going to his lungs which allows him to breathe.

It said the fight is an exhausting one for the couple involved, Mark Bakker and his wife Kelly, whose requests for nursing assistance have been turned down by the Ministry of Health. Jordan was born three months premature on July 30, 1984, at McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton and since then has spent more than a year hooked to life-support systems.

The issue that is important here is the fact that this young child has had the best care, probably some of the best doctors, certainly the best in this area, and has been in one of the best hospitals in

the province since he was born. He weighed 1.04 kilograms, just over two pounds, at birth, and his lungs were not developed enough to allow him to breathe on his own. He had to be hooked to a respirator and had a tube down his airway.

Although the respirator helped him survive the ordeal, it took its toll because it damaged the young boy's lungs, creating scar tissue in the trachea. After about four months and several attempts to remove the respirator tube, the doctors discovered the scar tissue was swelling and closing the airway. At seven months, a tracheotomy was performed and a tube inserted. He was moved from the McMaster University Medical Centre to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, where an operation was performed involving lasers to try to reduce the scar tissue. To maintain life, Jordan had to remain attached to an oxygen supply.

During the baby's first year, which included several more close calls, the anxious young parents travelled almost daily to hospitals in either Hamilton or Toronto. Because they showed such an interest in their child's welfare, the doctors and staff at the Hospital for Sick Children took the time to train the couple in the detailed care of their son. They became so expert at operating and regulating the oxygen tubes required to sustain his life, operating the oxygen tanks and sterilizing equipment and clearing Jordan's lungs of mucous with suction equipment, that they were allowed to take him home on the day of his first birthday. The parents were thrilled.

When he was 16 months old in December he weighed 7.7 kilograms, about 17 pounds. He cannot sit up on his own. This is at a stage when most children are walking. He learned to eat only three months ago and since then has started to grow, a phenomenon that doctors hope will include further development of his lungs, which one day might allow him to breathe on his own.

His parents believe his progress is directly related to the love and devotion they have shown for their son. Mrs. Bakker said: "When he was in hospital he used to lie there, but now, at home, he smiles a lot."

The hospital encouraged the move. The article goes on to state that at the hospital doctors encouraged the move home, assuring the parents they could administer medication and operate the complicated respiratory and monitoring equipment, receiving assistance from a home-care program.

Mr. Bakker said: "It did not take long before we realized we were the only ones in the Niagara region capable of caring for Jordan."

Ironically, when the couple applied for handicapped children's benefits so they could hire overnight nursing care, they were turned down because Mr. Bakker's income last year was too high.

Again, it is the problem of accessibility. Here is a child who responded to being released from hospital and in his parents' 24-hour care; yet the parents were unable to supplement some of their own time by hiring a nurse so they could even catch up on their sleep because of a glitch in the system that says one cannot receive this kind of care and assistance if one's income level is above a certain figure.

They applied to the Ministry of Health for a qualified registered nurse three nights a week so they could sleep and still take proper care of Jordan. Ministry spokesman Doug Enright told the Hamilton Spectator: "There is now provision for such a service, but through the Niagara Region Health Unit. The ministry has offered up to four one-hour visits a day from the Victorian Order of Nurses and 40 hours of homemaking a month."

Mrs. Bakker said the family tried the VON visits, but found the nurses did not have the expertise and experience to deal with Jordan's life or death situation.

The article goes on to talk about the constant care that Mrs. Bakker has to provide her son:

" 'Jordan is a 24-hour job and requires constant care,' said her husband. 'Right now Kelly is running on empty because at best she is getting three or four hours broken sleep, getting up through the night every hour to check on Jordan.' " The only alternative is to send Jordan back to the hospital and the parents cannot accept that.

4:40 p.m.

Everyone in this chamber can understand that. Having seen the response, having seen a child come back from a situation that was critical and drastic a year ago, it is only natural that the parents cannot accept sending that child back to a hospital. They estimate that for three nights a week a nurse would cost the ministry approximately $300. This would compare to a cost of $800 daily, or $3,500 weekly, if Jordan returns to the intensive care tracheotomy ward at the Hospital for Sick Children. Perhaps that illustrates my point as well as anything. Let us not get distracted when we talk about Bill 94 and health accessibility. Let us not get distracted from the fundamental problems of our health care system, which has built-in accessibility problems.

I could go on and briefly allude to other comments which might be more objective than mine. This is an article by Derek Nelson of the Queen's Park Bureau, Thomson News Service, which appeared in the Oshawa Times on January 7. I will excerpt a little from this article. This is with respect to extra billing.

"This is a step beyond a simple ban on extra billing. In Quebec, for example, doctors in medicare may not extra bill. But doctors have the option of being outside the government system. They charge what they want and the patient receives no reimbursement from medicare."

Mr. Nelson also said: "What the doctors should also grasp is that the Liberals, in fact, went a step further: they nationalized the profession.

"The mark of any professional has long been the ability to charge for a service based upon a person's skills as recognized in the marketplace. This is no longer possible for doctors"–under this legislation. That is an objective observation by a Queen's Park correspondent.

Here are some other comments from Dr. Kenneth Walker, who members may suggest is not terribly objective. Dr. Walker is a Toronto gynaecologist who writes a syndicated medical column called The Doctor Game, under the pseudonym of W. Gifford-Jones. Members know well his crusade in support of providing cancer victims with heroin to alleviate their pain. The headline of Dr. Walker's column in the Globe and Mail of Thursday, December 19, is "Opted-out Ontario Doctors Not Really Medicare Victims." The text says:

"What would happen if government forced all United Auto Workers to accept the same rate of pay regardless of their skills? Their president, Robert White, would probably publish a statement that would reverberate across the country, and woe to any politician who voted for such an unjust scheme.

"But today, Murray Elston, Ontario's Minister of Health, will introduce comparable legislation for Ontario's physicians who charge more than the government fee schedule. But are the opted-out doctors the real villains? And what about politicians who preach equality for all–how do some of them handle their own medical care?"

The article is quite extensive and I will not read the whole thing into the record. It is important that I deal with a few excerpts.

"Mr. Elston also knows it is a political fairy-tale that opted-out doctors are a drain on the medical budget. Rather, they are the physicians who have done the most to keep the system honest, as their patients know what they charge. But for some opted-in doctors, the government plan is simply a licence to steal when there are so few controls." That is a quote from a medical practitioner.

"Mr. Elston also charges Ontario will lose $53 million in payments from the federal government unless it bans extra billing. But if the minister is so concerned about economics and our health, why did the government grant $130 million to tobacco farmers? Isn't there enough lung cancer in Canada without subsidizing this disease? Besides, $53 million represents about $6 a year for every Ontario resident–less than the price of a haircut."

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, I will have to call for a quorum.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin) ordered the bells rung.

4:49 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: We now have a quorum.

Mr. Andrewes: I appreciate the fact that, in spite of the quorum call, so many members were in the precinct to respond so quickly.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Who called for the quorum? Did all the people who did not vote on the last bill show up?

Mr. Andrewes: The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) is interjecting. I think he missed the part of the debate that was relevant to his riding in particular. I hope he will read Hansard in some detail. I spoke at length about the health care needs in the city of St. Catharines and about his intervention on behalf of that community to meet some of those needs.

I hope he will support me in the position I have taken with respect to the needs of that community. I have a lot of friends there and I want them to be well looked after, especially those who may stumble coming out of the door of a particular social establishment on Friday afternoons. They may bump their heads and need that new chronic care unit at the St. Catharines General Hospital, the new cancer care unit at the Hotel Dieu Hospital and all the various and sundry needs that–

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: All the things that waited so long to come to fruition.

Mr. Andrewes: I will not engage the member in debate. I will continue with my own observations.

Those were observations made by Dr. Kenneth Walker whom the member for St. Catha-

rines may have known in past days. I believe Dr. Walker actually started his practice in the St. Catharines community. He is now a well-known Toronto gynaecologist who writes a syndicated column under the name of W. Gifford-Jones.

I will complete my remarks with respect to this article by reading the last paragraph, which says simply: "If faced with similar problems, I am sure the UAW would label such hostile legislation unconstitutional and contrary to the Charter of Rights. And the minister would be fortunate if all it did was burn his effigy on every street corner."

That may be a little more extensive demonstration than we would call for on this legislation, but it indicates the frustration and concern of a medical practitioner who cares very deeply for the system in which he was educated, in which he operates and which he wants preserved.

This is another very brief excerpt from an editorial in the London Free Press of December 14:

"A ban on extra billing would be expensive to the province, which is already coping with a budget deficit of $2.213 billion, up almost 30 per cent over last year." It is strange how deficits can rise at a time when the economy seems to be pushing ahead. I think that is the appropriate time to pay off the bills; however, this government has not seen fit to do that. In addition, it could poison government relations with doctors in a way that would undermine morale and efficiency within the entire health care system.

"As Premier, Peterson would do well"–that is the member for London Centre; I know, Mr. Speaker, you do not want me to refer to members by their names, but I am quoting now–"to reconsider and reject an outright extra billing ban. Instead, he should try to work out an arrangement with the OMA to ensure that there are enough opted-in doctors in every region of the province so that no patient is required to pay anything more than OHIP premiums in order to get a necessary medical service."

That is the London Free Press. Here is a brief excerpt from an editorial in the Toronto Sun of January 21, 1986; which is a very objective opinion, no doubt.

Mr. Ferraro: Toronto who?

Mr. Andrewes: The member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro) laughs.

Mr. Ferraro: The member buys it for the girls. I only buy it for the girls; same reason.

Mr. Andrewes: The member is more used to the objectivity of the Guelph Mercury, which is not my favourite. The Guardian was my favourite, but I understand the Guardian does not print any more.

Mr. Ferraro: The member is showing his age.

Mr. Andrewes: I am sure I am.

This is the objective view of the Toronto Sun on January 21, 1986. It is headed "Rebel Yell;" and it says, "Doctors resent politicians regulating them for narrow political ends. We side with them."

It says further, "And the Grits are kowtowing to the tinkerers at a time when the main concern in Ontario health care should be how much public aid the hospitals need."

A further quote is: "Hypocrisy is out of control when the government pays the freelancer $110 an hour to write speeches defending it but says a psychiatrist may charge only $81 an hour. We should put the government on the couch for such waste."

There is an interesting, objective point of view from the notorious Toronto Sun.

Finally, I refer to another objective point of view from the North Bay Nugget on January 15, 1986. If my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) were here, he would no doubt be able to enlighten us about the political views of the North Bay Nugget. Nevertheless, the North Bay Nugget talks about the doctors' revolt. It says:

"The NDP and its union allies strenuously object to wage controls and rarely look kindly upon forced arbitration of labour disputes. The professional people who play a large role in the Liberal government want to be free to set their own fees and working conditions."

Another quote is, "It is nothing but wage control."

A final quote is: "The doctors want freedom within a government-run system. The government wants to curtail their freedom and preserve the system.

"Yet the system itself is rapidly becoming an economic impossibility, something that neither side seems willing to admit."

I indicated to the Speaker at the outset that my remarks would be brief, concise and to the point. I hope he has found them that way.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Prince Edward-Lennox.

Mr. Breaugh: Now we will hear the real right wing. No more of this wimpish stuff.

Mr. Taylor: Members will hear the temperate side of things; the member knows that. I am always temperate and, I hope, as pointed as the

previous member, to whom I have listened so cautiously and patiently for two or three days.

I am reminded of Parkinson's law. To paraphrase Parkinson, he enunciated a principle to the effect that work expands to fill the time available for its completion. I was wondering at the seeming interminability of this debate. All things surely must come to an end some time and, with the patience of members on all sides of the House, one day this debate will be terminated. I do not know that this says very much, because probably most of the points that are to be made have been made. Accordingly, I will certainly be as brief as I can. The fact that so many members have spoken is an indication of their sincerity and of their conviction that this legislation is really not fitting of this government or of this province.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission I will bring to your attention several letters that are brief in form and that will bring out the gist of the concerns, certainly in my area and probably in other parts of the province.

5 p.m.

On January 28, there was printed in the Kingston Whig-Standard two letters, one from Mrs. Irene Backholm from Amherstview, a member of the Ernestown council, a very dedicated Liberal supporter and worker whom I respect very much. Also, she is very community-minded. I quote what she has to say:

"I am surprised and disappointed at the reaction of the Ontario medical profession to the banning of extra-billing. Whatever is happening to the Hippocratic oath? Are doctors so poorly paid?

"Yes, we do have a health care system second to none. We don't have to look very far to see how well off we Canadians are. And I feel our doctors have been well-served by OHIP also.

"On one side you have the United States, where a large number of people have inadequate or no health insurance at all and doctors pay astronomical sums (tens of thousands of dollars annually) for insurance against lawsuits; where families live in fear because a medical problem can lead to financial ruin; where a person's access to medical care depends almost solely on ability to pay. I am sure many of us have seen the exposés on the TV program, 60 Minutes.

"On the other side you have Britain, where the end result of extra billing and all that is bad about socialized medicine is very much in evidence. You have a state-supported system and a private system side by side. The best doctors are not available to people who depend on the state system except as charity cases. It is not charity, the state insurance pays the doctor!

"I am old enough to remember the days before health insurance–private or government. I do not want to go back to those days when the fear of illness was compounded by the fear of financial disaster. Ordinary working people like my parents thought long and hard before ever consulting a doctor. And the doctors worked themselves to early graves and carried heavy burdens of uncollectable accounts receivable. So our system of socialized medicine has been good for doctors also. Now there are no bad debts, and instead of sending out hundreds of individual bills each month they send only one, which is always paid.

"I will not comment upon the inflammatory, and in my view irresponsible, statements made by some spokesmen for the Ontario Medical Association.

"It seems to me that while the system we have now may not be perfect, the inadequacies are not weighted for or against any of the partners in the health care system: our doctors, their patients and the general taxpayer. We all benefit. To suggest that what is best for the doctors is best for the total health care system is equal to that old saying of Al Capp's: 'What's best for General Motors is best for the country.' We all know it ain't so."

That was a published letter written by Mrs. Backholm. What she is really saying is we have an excellent health care system in Ontario. She compares it with her experience in the British Isles and the system there. She refers to the problems in the United States. The crux of the issue is that we must maintain the high quality system we have.

On the same day, in the same paper, there was a very short letter from Hubert W. Hogle from Napanee. He is not known to me as an avid Tory supporter. In his two-paragraph letter he states:

"Our new Ontario government seems determined to turn all our doctors into civil servants. Great Britain tried that several years ago. Their residents now face a three-year waiting list for most elective surgery.

"If our legislators really want health care delivered by the same people who deliver the mail, I suggest that they include a provision in the new law that no one in Ontario is allowed to get sick on weekends, statutory holidays, after 3:35 p.m. or before 10 a.m., during lunch hour, or during coffee breaks. Canada's present health care system is the best in the world. Why fix something that isn't broken?"

Again this is an expression of wonderment, bewilderment and frustration from an ordinary person in the town of Napanee. Why are we tinkering with something that works so well and where there is reasonable harmony?

On January 29 I received a letter from a constituent, Hugh P. Godard, who is 71 years of age. He lives at R. R. 3, Bath, Ontario. This is what he said:

"As one of your constituents I wish to express my strongly held views on provincial government regulation of money received by physicians for their services.

"At the moment, the Peterson government is attempting to force the physicians into a straitjacket by prescribing the amounts they can charge the public for their services, and to prohibit by law any additional charges by the physicians.

"I reject the right of the state to completely control the financial return of one class of professionals in our society. No such effort is being made to control the incomes of other high earners–for example, dentists, architects, engineers, real estate agents, etc.

"I realize the the control of physicians' incomes is 'popular' with the voting public and is thus a good political ploy. The public sees the doctors making a lot of money–too much indeed, so they should be limited by law. I hope you do not share this fallacious view. The proposed limitations go against the whole idea of 'freedom' in our democracy–the freedom of which we are so proud.

"I am sending a copy of this letter to my federal MP, Bill Vankoughnet, as part of the present provincial government pogrom is a result of federal transfer of funds penalties for those provinces which do not prohibit extra billing.

"I recommend to both of you that the governments of Canada should stop trying to prescribe the fees that physicians are allowed to earn. Your present course can only hurt the medical profession and, in due course, the public who rely on its services. The better doctors will migrate elsewhere. Those who remain will develop a 'what-the-hell' nonprofessional attitude and the quality of our health care will suffer. Unfortunately, the deterioration will occur in small steps that will not be noticed until the effects are so bad that it will be most difficult to restore the good health care system we now enjoy.

"I would like to make clear that this letter is not the result of any conversation with my physician, or of any material I have received from him."

It is signed, as I mentioned, "Hugh P. Godard, age 71."

Again, the message is crystal clear. We have an excellent health care system in Ontario. Why damage it?

5:10 p.m.

We have heard a letter that, I think, has touched the hearts of many of us. It was a letter of conscience, of strong feeling, of dedication, a letter by a physician who serves individuals of the public in a very human way. He looks at the patient as a human being, as a whole person. He does not look at that patient as just another object of his medical skills, not just someone for whom he will treat a disease or solve a medical problem, but as someone with whom to work in a true human, doctor-patient relationship.

This letter has been quoted before. I had a conversation with Dr. Brennan from Kingston. It is a letter addressed to the Premier, and I hope the Premier takes the time to read it.

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will fit it in with the few other letters I have mentioned because it is very compelling in its message.

The Deputy Speaker: I remind the member that it has been the practice to read excerpts from letters, but not whole letters.

Mr. Taylor: I appreciate that. That is the reason I brought this to your attention. I did not want to unduly delay the work of the Legislature. All the information we have received and all the words that have flowed from the mouths of many members have been novel and unique in nature and not repetitive. However, I am suffering some concern that this letter might have been heard before by some members, and I do not want to unduly tax their patience. If it does, I will go on to the next letter to the Premier. This is only one of two letters to the Premier that I wanted to read.

The Deputy Speaker: Perhaps excerpts from the letter will suffice.

Mr. Taylor: Excerpts are not all that good because there is a very keen message here. I want members to know that Dr. James Brennan practises medicine in Kingston, and he expresses some grievous feelings about the Health Care Accessibility Act. He says:

"In the 10 years that I have been in practice in Ontario, following six years of medical school and eight years of post-graduate training, I have attempted to furnish to as many patients as I could handle, the best medical care I was able to provide. Accessibility of patients to me by appointment has been limited only by the constraints of time. It is possible to deal

adequately with only a limited number of patients in a given period of time. Accessibility to me in medically urgent situations when I have been on call (an average of 100 hours per week, 52 weeks per year) has been absolutely unrestricted."

We can see the message there. If we are talking about accessibility of medical care, this physician epitomizes it. He is wondering why the government has to legislate accessibility. Within his experience, his fellow practitioners are accessible in an equal way.

He goes on to say that he has always accepted the Ontario health insurance plan rates. As a matter of fact, payments outside a certain amount go to Queen's University, where he is engaged as well. Members are aware of that because this letter has been read into the record before. He says:

"I infer, therefore, that in terms of accessibility and fees charged, my patients have been satisfied with the service I have provided. You and your government state, however, that there is widespread dissatisfaction among the people of Ontario over the way in which doctors are paid and that excessive fees are hindering access to good medical care. If my patients truly support your position, then I feel betrayed and emotionally unrewarded for the services I have rendered."

I mentioned the doctor-patient relationship, the sensitivity of this physician, his duty and concern for the individual and the freedom of the individual. He goes on: "As concerned as I am about the above issue, as a citizen of a free society I attach much more importance to the effects of the proposed legislation on my personal freedom. Heretofore I have always felt free to choose whether or not to accept the OHIP benefit as payment for my services. If working within OHIP is like being in prison, being able to opt out and extra bill is like possessing a key to the prison door. Freedom is available to me and therefore I am free. Without it, I am a slave."

Those are very potent words and I do not think the members of the assembly truly appreciate what it means to be free in the delivery of a service, whether in a profession, a trade or a calling; that freedom to get into our marketplace and give, trade or sell the special skills and abilities one has for what one may get in return.

If I can be personal for a moment, during my career as a lawyer and advocate I dedicated a lot of my time and professional expertise to the community. I incorporated many charitable organizations, a medical-surgical research foundation, a trust honouring a distinguished member of the medical profession which financed visiting lecturers, hockey clubs, underwater clubs, football clubs, senior citizen associations. I never billed. I was free to charge or not. No one told me that I should bill or what I should bill. In some instances I donated my disbursements as well because I felt I was making some kind of contribution to the community.

Surely it is important to get some satisfaction from being a member of a community; to feel that one is making some contribution and not being dictated to about whether one should charge or how much one should charge, and then put it in a large corporate machine, a government bureaucracy, to churn out cheques at the other end, we hope.

I have watched the institutionalization of so much around here: the province, the country, the world. We seem to think government is the solution to everything.

Mr. McGuigan: Is there a better place to stand?

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Taylor: I am sorry. Right now I have the freedom to stand in this assembly and I cherish that very much. I want members to know there is an insatiable desire on the part of so many people to turn charity into a crown corporation, turn the good Samaritan into a civil servant and put everyone on the payroll. I wonder if next we are going to issue quotas for the milk of human kindness.

We have to understand the precious nature of choice, of freedom to choose. We are now arriving at the crux of what Dr. Brennan is saying.

I want members to listen–I do not want to tax the patience of the House–to the last letter I will quote from today. I just received this letter addressed to the Premier. It is from Dr. Brant E. Bergstrome of Napanee, who has suffered medical problems himself. He has worked hard and is a very diligent, caring doctor. The letter is dated January 27, 1986.

"Dear Mr. Peterson:

"I am writing this letter on a personal level because of the gathering disquiet which I hear expressed daily by my colleagues, which I sense in my patient's unaccustomed unease and which I see and hear via the media in increasingly strident and incomprehensible terms.

"Yesterday on television, persons allegedly speaking for senior citizens in Ontario castigated physicians and some of their pernicious practices, specifically extra billing. This evening on the news I saw you, Mr. Premier, at the leadership ratification, assuring your auditors, not only at

the convention but throughout the province, that your government was, through the Health Care Accessibility Act, only fulfilling its commitment, reaffirmed throughout the election campaign, to abolish the practice of extra billing.

"I feel as if being cast in a role in your coming spectacular, for which neither I nor my profession have any demonstrable talent. I have practised family medicine in this community since 1953, and along with all my colleagues here have reason to be grateful for that privilege. Not one of us has ever been guilty of extra billing, nor have we found it necessary prior to this to consider the option of leaving OHIP in order to maintain our professional identity and the freedom historically implicit in that profession.

"Nor have we ever been accused of denying any patient free access to our care. We have, to the best of our abilities and in obedience to our professional ethnics and dictates, placed our community's interests well above our own. Like the vast majority of our colleagues in Ontario, we work long hours in our offices, homes and institutions.

"We have not always enjoyed tranquil relations with the Ministry of Health, but have always resolved these disputes with the full awareness that our disputes must never be allowed to contribute to the public's disadvantage.

"I am neither a politician nor lawyer, but as a citizen physician, I do understand the simple, absolute necessity of communication and cooperation if we are seriously to seek improvement of a health care system already acknowledged to be sans pareil.

"This then is the source of our community disquiet: that your government and our profession, both undeniably essential to our people, have become set, but not by us, upon a course of inevitable collision from which there can emerge no victors and only one permanent victim, the people of Ontario.

"I cannot believe that you or your government wish this to happen, and yet only you can prevent it.

"In deepest apprehension,

"Yours sincerely, Brant E. Bergstrome."

That touched me as well, because I know the doctors of Napanee and of Picton, and I do not know one single doctor who has opted out of OHIP or who is not concerned about the liberty of the citizens in this province. It is an issue that is not hitting the public.

As I mentioned earlier, we have problems in communication and in generalizations; institutionalization and the perception of the institution. We talk about the doctors and the medical profession. I do not see that institution in my mind's eye; I see the flesh and blood of the medical practitioners in my community and in the part of Ontario I represent. I see the people who work so hard for their community; who do not argue fees, who do not worry about their incomes as being paramount, whose salaries are well below the average salary of doctors.

We have some knowledge of the circumstances of other people in smaller communities. We know how they serve the public on the hospital boards, in the charity clubs and in so many other ways. They are not looking for money. They are making a contribution.

One has to differentiate between small-town Ontario, the ordinary people of this province, and the intemperate remarks made on occasion by people in the medical profession who should know better, remarks that polarize prejudice and foster confrontation. One has to distinguish between the ordinary medical practitioner and the image, the stereotype that is projected—and at times with reason—of the profession as a whole.

The issue in the public's mind is that doctors want more money and it is the public's view they are making enough. They ask, "What do you want more for?" That is not the issue as I know it in the communities I know so well. I do not think it is the issue with the medical profession if one talks to doctor after doctor after doctor.

The issue, and it may seem strange to some here who are so used to freedom, is freedom of choice. I suppose there are some who have a true appreciation of what the element of choice means in a free society; probably those who have suffered oppression, who have capitulated to state control and direction. However, force breeds force. Once one starts to force a profession in one direction; and once one turns it against its collective will one is begging for force in return.

5:30 p.m.

We have a province that is going through growing pains and will continue to do so. We have a province that will have a need for more medical services: more services in hospitals, more services in homes for the aged, more nursing home services and more services delivered to the homes of the elderly. The demographics dictate that we are going to have to adjust somehow to the expanding needs for medical care in old age. I can see the Treasurer (Mr.

Nixon) winding up. He is getting older too. I have watched him year after year. He is no less vibrant, but older and I hope mellower, wiser and more influential in terms of the legislation that pours forth from this assembly.

We should be looking at the total spectrum of services. When we look at that spectrum, we should look at the financial means that will be essential to fund those services. One day we will have to recognize that government cannot do it alone. I am convinced the individual, the family and the private sector all have to join hands in assisting in the financing and delivery of health services in this province.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Labour unions.

Mr. Taylor: I appreciate that interjection by the Treasurer, but I do not want to get on the subject of labour unions. There, too, is an institutionalization that does not necessarily work the best for its membership.

The topic today is our health care system and the possible impact of this legislation on it. I will do my best to ignore the interjections, which were nil until the Treasurer descended upon the scene to churn trouble, as this legislation is doing throughout the province. I hope he does not start quoting Shakespeare, "Double, double, toil and trouble."

Just as a caution, I have watched the Treasurer and his colleagues. They are great guys, apart from the institution of government and the assumption of power. With regard to the power structure, however, I see nothing but little men in lofty places who cast long shadows because the sun is setting.

I have a message for this assembly and this government, if it is listening. To ensure it has the co-operation of all segments of society, whether it is big business, small business, the family, friends, a charitable institution, the medical practitioners or whoever, it should try to achieve a better understanding of the gigantic problems that face us in the health care system. There is a need to talk and to communicate, not to confront. This legislation is causing a confrontation that will undermine not only the character but also the delivery and quality of health care services in this province.

Simplistically, the government has projected the problem as one of extra billing, of money. The issue is not money.

I admire the remarks of the Liberal member for Humber (Mr. Henderson), who had the intestinal fortitude, the character and the political will to stand up in this assembly to say what he believed and not to be ashamed of it.

Mr. Breaugh: That is something we have not seen for 42 years.

Mr. Baetz: They have sold out to the socialists.

Mr. Taylor: I think this province needs a man like that.

Mrs. Grier: Considering whom he defeated, that is certainly true.

Mr. Taylor: We are fortunate to have someone in this assembly who has a mind of his own, regardless of whom he may have replaced. It is important to have people of character and goodwill. Goodwill is not being demonstrated in legislation which draws in doctors, optometrists and dentists, probably in a move to destroy further the independence and professionalism of the professions because it seems to be part and parcel of a socialist doctrine.

Mr. Shymko: The government is making them scapegoats.

Mr. Taylor: Just watch and see.

I hate to see that whittling away of the independence and professionalism of professions. If a professional wants to send out a bill, he should be able to do so. If he wants to charge less than what government dictates, he should be able to do so. If he wants to charge the same, he can do that; but at least there is that freedom.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: He cannot charge more.

Mr. Taylor: He cannot charge more now because the government has made a sham of the whole system. What it is saying is that doctors have the freedom to opt out of the plan, but if they do they will suffer all the inconvenience of opting out with respect to extra billing, that is having to process their own claims and gambling about whether they will get paid, but their bills will have to be the same as though they were opted in.

Mr. Haggerty: It is just like legal aid. It is the same program your party had for lawyers.

Mr. Taylor: That is something, is it not? With legal aid there is a free profession. It is different. The member does not understand what he has now.

Mr. Baetz: Are all the lawyers in legal aid? Of course not.

Mr. Taylor: Of course they are not.

What this is doing is saying to the 12 per cent of doctors who have opted out and do not charge more, "You have abdicated any sense of independence or freedom to practise your profession in Ontario." Can you imagine that, Mr. Speaker? When one is not the part of any government plan as a professional the govern-

ment says, "You shall not deliver that service unless you charge only in accordance with that government plan, even though you are not part of it." What is a professional going to do? We have heard of the exodus of specialists from Quebec to Ontario.

Mr. Villeneuve: They knew a good system when they saw one.

Mr. Taylor: This is where it is. The expertise is here in Ontario. Why do members think people come from around the world? They come to the system we have here, where we have the professionals and expertise. Are we going to gamble on the disappearance of that expertise? Are we going to encourage the flight of those specialists to other provinces? There are no other provinces where they could practise. They will be leaving for the United States and some of them are already going there.

Mr. Haggerty: Let the member tell us how we are going to get that $50 million or $60 million from Ottawa. His government supported not getting those transfers. If we want to have them, we have to take this route.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Erie may want to speak later.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Taylor: The member is attributing a motive to the government legislation, namely to recoup the $50 million the federal government is withholding, which it estimates to be the amount of fees that were extra billed. The real danger is in the legislation. It is going to take the government more than $50 million to try to buy peace within the profession by upping the general scale of fees agreed upon by the government in order to maintain some semblance of order and service in Ontario within this profession. I think that is short-term and short-sighted.

We have an excellent system in Ontario. I am afraid some parts of the medical profession, and I am speaking now in a general sense, have been strident. They have been confrontational in some of their remarks. There is out there a threat, and no one likes to be threatened, of civil disobedience. I am very saddened to hear that proposition because I do not believe in it, whether it is the medical profession, trade unions or whatever.

It is important to obey the law, regardless of what that is, and in a democratic society to bring about a change in a democratic way. I hope that some of the doctors' remarks which are highlighted and amplified do not truly project the will of the ordinary medical practitioner in this province. It is a sad day when the image of the medical profession is one of avarice, greed, confrontation and civil disobedience.

I hope we can look at the doctors as individuals, what they mean to us and their worth in society. We all need them, and as we grow older we will need them even more. I hope they will look upon us as individuals, that they will be dedicated to our welfare and not be technicians simply treating a disease, chalking up successes or failures.

At the risk of repetition, I cannot impress too strongly the vital and fundamental issue that if a profession is no part of a government-sponsored plan, then the members of that profession who are not a part of that government-sponsored plan should not be coerced into the rules and regulations of that plan. I find it truly repugnant to my sense of what is fair and to the belief that we should be able to freely practise and freely work in society.

I urge the Treasurer and his colleagues to extract from this legislation, which is deceitful in long title and in short title when one reads them, extra billing on the one hand and accessibility on the other, the mandate that the medical profession is restricted even outside the government plan to the rules of the government plan. If they could do that, if they could communicate and dialogue, it would be much more beneficial to us all.

When people are talking they are not fighting. It is important to be able to sit down and negotiate freely, honestly and with a sense of fairness and pride. What this legislation will do is to vitiate any honest, true and sincere relationship between government and the profession.

As a citizen, I dislike the idea of coercion on either side. I dislike anyone threatening me. I read indications of threats from the medical profession in terms of what they may do. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure you that the doctors in my community, and if you will search your conscience and memory the doctors in your community, are truly good people. Their image is not what it used to be, but they are truly concerned about the welfare of the medical system in Ontario. They are sensitive to the health of the people and they are caring. We have to look at them as individuals in a personal relationship as opposed to the stereotype of the medical profession as an institution. We must deal, as people, with people.

I truly beseech the government to look at this. It can achieve what it wants to achieve if it is concerned about the federal government's hold-back of $50 million. That may mount; I do not

know. If that is the motive, the price we are paying is too high because freedom does not have a price. It may sound corny to some of the members when they hear the doctors talking about freedom, but the more one thinks about it, it is important. No money can buy freedom.

I again urge the government to look at that and see whether we can accomplish the full transfer of funds. Regarding funding, probably the lion's share of it comes from Ontario anyway with respect to funding the federal operation and the transfer of funds. I think the lion's share is raised domestically, within the province. If the government does not spend it, that is a saving for everyone. Perhaps it is not as big a problem as some of us perceive it to be. I do not think that holdback is as big an issue as is projected by some because of another motivation.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could persuade your colleagues about this. I know you have independence of mind and the trust and confidence of the people in government. I know you are fair and true. On occasion you have probably been sick. I urge you to do a little lobbying to open the minds, to plumb the depths of the minds and souls of your colleagues in government, and to rescue the freedom that is essential in any profession or in any society in a democratic system.

I may have taken too long to impress upon members the true concern I have, and it is a sincere concern. The more I examine it and the way it may spread, the way it seems to be not only a notion in this case but a policy in the broader sense, the more concern I have. I am thinking now of the legislation affecting the pharmacists, but there is other legislation to which I see the same principle applying.

Without overstating the case, I really did want to ask the members to sit back and truly think about that issue. It is really not a financial issue but an issue of the worth and dignity of the human being, the medical practitioner, that this person have the choice so essential in a free society.

It is something we cannot put money on. I am convinced we have a great system that everybody believes in. We have it; we have a tremendous medical fraternity in this province. Look at Toronto. Look at the flights bringing people in daily to this centre for specialized treatment. Look at the technology, the skills. And we going to gamble that? We are possibly going to sacrifice it. To what?

I do not understand why. We have people who are expert in negotiations, skilled in collective bargaining, personable, who can perceive the issues. Why does the government not sit down and work it out?

In closing, I have one last letter that is dated January 21 of this year. It is addressed to the Premier and it is from E. D. Myers, MD, president of the Ontario Medical Association. It reads:

"Representatives of the Ontario Medical Association, including myself, met with you on several occasions this past fall to discuss problems in the health care system. We agreed with you that the dilemma presented by increasing needs and scarce resources required urgent attention. We were pleased to hear that you recognized the public purse cannot support the full cost of health care for much longer if we are to maintain our current high standards of care.

"We expressed great eagerness to participate in a fundamental reconsideration of how health care is delivered to the people of Ontario and how it is funded. We further agreed that in the context of such a study, physicians' billing practices should be a part of the exercise. We suggested further that while a study was under way we would assist you in ensuring that the financially disadvantaged were exempt from any direct charges by physicians.

"In the final analysis, you refused to hold back legislation on the opt-out question pending such a study. In short, it was you, not we, who refused to negotiate."

Do members want me to repeat that? I have been talking about negotiations. All reasonable men of goodwill can sit down and negotiate.

Mrs. Grier: What about women?

Mr. Taylor: I am not going to get carried away with sexist talk. The next thing you know, we will be calling the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) Mr. Grossperson. I do not want that to happen in our party.

Carrying on with the last paragraph of the letter:

"The OMA now publicly presents you with the offer we made in private. The people of Ontario cannot afford a war between physicians and government. The stakes are too high. The current excellence we enjoy in health care is the fruit of a long-standing, collaborative relationship. We plead with you to put away your legislative hammer and join with us in finding a better way. The people expect no less of us.

"Sincerely, E. D. Meyers, MD, President."

I would interpret that as conciliatory in tone. I do not think the medical profession is looking for conflict. I think it is looking for a way to ensure its independence, its integrity and its freedom; I

do not think it wants to get drawn into action that is confrontationist in nature, that is intemperate. I do not think the medical professional can afford to encourage an image that is any worse than it may be now.

When I read this and I see the situation out there, I am convinced that government can work this out. I am convinced we can maintain the system we have, that we are not going to be overtaxed with extra bills from doctors, and I will not give those arguments. They have been made before: the percentages of those who have opted out, whether or not it is 12 per cent; or the percentage of those who have opted out and who actually bill.

I know doctors who bill five cents more than the Ontario health insurance plan rate just to have the freedom to bill themselves because they do not want to be in the plan. They have opted out and they charge five cents per bill more–one seventh of the price of a postage stamp–just to illustrate their independence, to confirm that they are not civil servants. They are not responsible to the state; they are responsible to their patients. Their concern and their care is for the patient, and that must not change. That is the crux of it.

Mr. Speaker I beseech you to influence your colleagues as much as you can. The Treasurer has always been a man of goodwill, compromise and good sense. I hesitate to go further because he is still a member of the Liberal Party. Nevertheless, I urge him and his colleagues to try to work out something before the war escalates and the public is damaged.

The issue right now is the integrity of the health care system. This party is supporting the present health care system. It wants to maintain the integrity and high standards of that system. As members, we have spoken for the system. We are not carrying cudgels for the doctors, nor are we their apologists. We are public servants and we are afraid the medical system will be put in jeopardy because of this legislation.

That is our position in a nutshell. I emphasize that if we are going to settle this issue, if we are going to negotiate, there must be an element of freedom. I do not think it is an insurmountable problem for the Premier and his colleagues to work out.

With that, I want to thank members for the opportunity to enter this debate.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Cochrane North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
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McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
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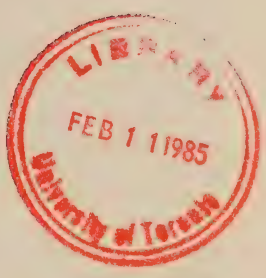
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, February 3, 1986
Evening Sitting



Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 3, 1986

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT
(continued)

Resuming the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

Mr. Rowe: I am pleased to rise this evening and join in this debate on Bill 94, a bill that will play an important role in the life of just about every resident in the province. This bill should be under attack by every person concerned with our wellbeing.

With such an important bill dealing with the life and the death of so many, I have to wonder why this government has arbitrarily decided to disrupt the harmonious rendering of health care in Ontario. The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) must surely be aware by now that our health care system in Ontario is ranked among the best in the world and perhaps the very best in the world.

If one takes a moment to think about the title of this bill, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act, it is an all-time first in the professional field for possibly the freest of lands in the world. I wonder who will be next under the present government. Will it be the lawyers? Could it be the farmers? As my friend the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) points out, they do not need to worry about regulating their income, taking zero from zero leaves zero.

Surely the minister must realize the proposed changes in our health system have put this program in jeopardy. Surely he can assess the damage done to health care programs when they were totally nationalized under socialist regimes around the world. Let me give him a couple of graphic examples.

Britain's totally socialistic health care program may appeal to the present Liberal government. It has had a quarter of a century of experience with the national health scheme. What a boon it was to be to the country when implemented, but it was no boon to Britain. It was a boon to nations such as Canada because it stimulated the exodus from Britain of huge numbers of British-trained graduates. They did not all come to this country; some went to the United States, Australia and many other countries in the free world.

The nationalization of Britain's health care system, in turn, stimulated the influx of many medical graduates. They came from as far away as India. They were eager to join the National Health Service. Since all this has come about, my doctor friends tell me the system has degenerated to a point where a full 85 per cent of elective surgery is done by private surgeons in private hospitals. Otherwise, a patient could wait five years to have a hernia repaired. Imagine waiting five years for a hernia repair. It is a horrendous pain to go through.

I will point out a few of the pitfalls in this situation. These private hospitals in Britain do not have the same safeguards as the national ones do. Patients take a chance. When they have the operation done in a national hospital, they are at the mercy of the system.

Surgery is risky to a degree under any circumstances, but we should strive to eliminate all the elements of chance as much as possible. That is something this bill does not do. With the unrest of the doctors in the world today, this will not alleviate and spare any percentage of chance.

Those patients take the chance rather than wait for proper medical care. Until now every resident or citizen of this province has been entitled to equally superior health care. They have had the freedom to choose their doctors, even those who extra bill. These were in the minority. They accepted patients at the regular OHIP rate. The patients had the freedom to choose their doctors and the doctors had the freedom to bill those they felt could bear the traffic of a higher tariff.

I suggest to the opposite side that this is called free enterprise. That is what this province was built on and I hope will continue to be built on in the future.

While we are on the topic of money, members should be aware that Britain currently spends more on health care than does Canada. My doctor friends tell me almost every other western nation does. Australia recognized the problems of the British system. It modelled its system after

Canada's. However, government meddling and new regulations in the field of medicine resulted in imposed fee settlements.

What happens next, we ask? The Australians abandoned their system and instead provided a market for private medical insurance. These insurance companies have provided a variety of policies and coverage, on the whole less costly even than OHIP. There is still universal access and government-subsidized premiums for those who need them.

We in this Conservative Party do not criticize merely for the sake of criticizing. We have some workable solutions.

Mr. Barlow: Tell us the solution.

Mr. Rowe: I will. I want members to know they are not simplistic solutions that can be glibly proffered, such as those offered by certain parties in the heat of an election campaign. We all remember the election campaign. This government, painted as inexperienced by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, may learn quickly that being in government means going beyond the popular and the expedient.

8:10 p.m.

There comes a time early in the real, cool light of dawn, and I suggest for the members opposite that is far before they are ever out of bed, when a reasonable and responsible government must balance the legitimate interests and opinions of various groups in our society before it throws itself into a frenzy of knee-jerk reactions. Consultation as opposed to confrontation is another lesson a new government such as this must weigh. Our medical professionals would appreciate an opportunity for consultation with the minister and his government.

I realize, with all due respect, that the minister may feel more obligated to listen to the rantings of the third party than to the rational voice of the people; that is understandable. However, the doctors have an axe to grind. They have chosen their profession and they have worked for success and for a lifestyle. For the most part, they deserve the prestige they have earned. Residents of this province have come to rely on the high degree of professionalism our doctors have rendered.

I feel I am speaking for many of my constituents in the riding of Simcoe Centre when I say I do not relish the thought of assembly-line surgery. A simple appendectomy in the Soviet Union is an ordeal. Just ask the federal member of Parliament for Simcoe South, my colleague Ron Stewart. Over there on a trade mission some six months ago, Ron took a terrible attack of appendicitis. They finally got him into the hospital and they wanted to take out his gall bladder. What kind of medical system is that?

Upon going into the waiting room, the federal member noticed that the hospital was generally in bad repair. The window was broken. He sat on a cot for examination that he told me he was sure was out of the Second World War. This is the kind of health care they are subjected to in that part of the world. This is the kind of health care that we as legislators of this province must ensure does not come to pass in Ontario.

One of the doctors came to him and said, "We are here to take out your gall bladder." The federal member said, "No, I believe it is my appendix." After they had argued for a while, one would have thought there was a two-for-one sale, that they would take them both out at the same time. The federal member was not very excited about losing both.

Reluctantly, he gave in to the appendicitis operation. He shared with me some of the details of the operation he recalled just before going under. He said he looked up and remembered seeing seven or eight light bulbs in a socket that would hold nine or 10, the balance of them being burnt out, and the doctors were ready to operate. That is the kind of health care system I want to talk about. It is the kind of degenerating mess that this province could find itself in years down the road if we are not careful.

Last Friday I spoke to a group of people at an old folks' home in my riding of Simcoe Centre and I asked them, "What do you think of banning extra billing?" Amazingly, these people said to me that in all the course of their lives they had always respected doctors as being great professional men, much as the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) said a few weeks ago when he talked of the great medical men in his riding, and there have been many.

Mr. Sterling: Name them.

Mr. Rowe: There were too many to name.

They asked me, "Why does this government want to fight with the doctors?" I told them I had no idea why they really wanted to fight with the doctors, but I too shared their concern and was worried about what might happen.

They told me no doctor who had ever extra billed them had ever pressed them for collection. A very few who were extra billed and could afford to pay paid their bills and did not argue. They gave the doctor his due.

They also asked me, "Why does the present government want to confront every medical man

in the profession and put in jeopardy a health care system that we in this province have lived with and loved for many years?" I was at a loss for words. I could not explain why this present government wanted to continue this course of self-destruction. I could only say it must be for crass political reasons that this government wanted to attack the present system. If the government creates a huge situation of unrest with the doctors, the medical services that flow out from them to all these seniors and homes are bound to be affected. That is a sad state of affairs.

The government has expounded on the $50 million it is going to save. What happens when the Ontario Medical Association finally sits down around the table and decides whether this extra billing ban will indeed take place? One does not take it out of one pocket and expect to get away with it without replacing it in another. Let us not live in a fool's paradise. All the members of this fine chamber know the doctors are going to get their pound of flesh. One cannot blame them. They are happy in the system the way it is, but they will not put up with this kind of legislation.

I suggest that before this is over the $50 million saved by the Treasury in transfer payments from the federal government could indeed be $100 million or $150 million in increased fees that will eventually result from this terrible legislation. The sad part of this whole issue is that the people driving on the roads in Ontario tonight who feel they will save on their Ontario health insurance plan premiums because of the $50 million that will be realized through the federal transfer of payments to this province will be disappointed the most. The people who can least afford a huge increase in OHIP premiums will be the ones this present callous Liberal-socialist government is going to disappoint by legislation such as this. They are the people who will bear the brunt and carry the worst of it.

My colleagues across the House will have to answer in the next election to the people of Ontario who have to pay these huge increases. They are the members who should sit up and listen now. They should sit down with the doctors around the bargaining table and not continue to fight with every one of them in Ontario.

The fundamental issue in the new scheme of things is not the smokescreen of extra billing that the Liberal Party has initiated. Hospital facilities and facilities for health care are an issue we in this party and the people of Ontario could applaud. In my riding of Simcoe Centre, through the efforts of the Progressive Conservative Party, we were well on our way to building a new regional hospital to serve Barrie and the surrounding area.

The real issue in the health care field today is not the banning of extra billing. It is the lack of adequate, up-to-date facilities for the people of this province, specifically the residents of Simcoe Centre, Simcoe East and Dufferin-Simcoe.

8:20 p.m.

Interjections.

Mr. Rowe: I hear some great chatter to my far left.

Mr. Villeneuve: The far left.

Mr. Rowe: It is about as left as one could get. If one has a dog chasing one's sheep, one does not shoot all the sheep to solve the problem of the dog.

In my riding there are hardworking men and women who have given of themselves, their time and their resources to work for a new hospital in our area. These are men and women like John Brennan, Andrea Porter, Ray Tash, George Dangerfield, Walter Tardiff, Ray Gariepy and William Caldwell–the list goes on. These people are all now wondering why this government persists in using the smokescreen of extra billing to take away from the real issue, the issue of health care facilities in this great province.

These people are not fooled by the smokescreen the present government is attempting to create. Men like Ed Harper, Bruce Peacock, Mark Scarfe, Ron Gilbert and Rayner McCullough, all of whom are directors of our hospital, are most aware of the desperate need for a new hospital in Barrie. They are not fooled by this attempt to cloud the issue.

I am disturbed that this Liberal government is taking advantage of the political climate to introduce a bill to ban extra billing and thus refusing to deal with the real fundamental issue. That is the issue of health care and the lack thereof in this province.

I invite the Health minister to come to the emergency ward of the Royal Victoria Hospital–just as a visitor, not for a permanent stay. I invite him to talk to some of the 17 patients who are waiting on cots in the hallways to be examined by doctors in the emergency ward. Lives may have been endangered and certainly human dignity is suffering every day of the week. The minister should ask these patients if extra billing is foremost in their minds as they lie there waiting for a hospital room.

We have assembly lines in North America. I envision the medical and surgical tactics the present government espouses as being similar to those in Detroit and Windsor in the automotive industry. I will take the professional surgeon as we know him or her today in Ontario. The minister is welcome to take the blue collar, assembly-line operation; however, the people in my riding say, "Thanks, but no thanks; we will stay with the present system."

I am not favouring the position of the medical profession over the primary goal of great health care programs, not under any circumstances. This is what the minister has put in jeopardy. I realize it is incumbent on him with his third-party-crutch support to label my party as one that stands for big business and the professionals. I understand and that is part of the game, but let me share some concerns I have and some that have been expressed in letters written to me about the present legislation as proposed.

Let me share some concerns of a medical doctor in my riding, Dr. Matsalla, BA, MD, FRCS(C). He writes to the Minister of Health, and I am sure the minister has this letter stacked up with thousands of others, and says:

"Firstly, I bill my patients according to the Ontario Medical Association schedule of fees." He does not extra bill. "All patients have access to my services regardless of financial status, in fact, only approximately 50 to 60 per cent are billed according to the OMA schedule of fees.

"No patient has ever been turned away from my office, and each has had complete access to my service." It is important that this be on the record.

"Secondly, accessibility to the government-provided hospitals is a major problem. Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie is not accessible to the patients of Barrie and Simcoe county. Why? Because the government has dilly-dallied on the provision of a new hospital and its services to the community."

"On any given day, urgent emergency patients are lining the halls of the emergency department, frequently waiting more than 24 hours for a bed."

Mr. Haggerty: Meanwhile, hospital beds have been closed by the previous government over here.

Mr. Rowe: Let us not continue to talk about the past record. It amazes me how the present members can sit there, masquerading on one side of the coin as the government and floundering away their woes on the other side, blaming us for everything that has ever happened.

The letter goes on to state: "Operating-room facilities are outdated and inadequate for the needed specialty care required for the patients of Simcoe county." Urgent operations of a diagnostic nature, e.g., "cancer of the throat and lung are delayed due to no beds, no operating-room space, and a lack of staff due to inadequate funding by the government of Ontario.

"Any idiot recognizes that accessibility is not due to extra billing by doctors but due to the completely inadequate self-motivated, misdirected, perpetually delayed political process."

The final paragraph says, "I suggest you reconsider your off-based priorities on health care in this province, and redirect your energies to the needed co-operation of government and doctors for the optimum conveyance of health care in our great province."

To me, that is the crux of the whole problem today: underfunding of the present situation and taking away from that by creating a huge smokescreen in what is in political terms popular today by saying ban extra billing.

I have another letter I would like to read into the record. I will quote just the first part of this great letter I received from one Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Miller from Gilford, Ontario.

"We are writing at this time to express our most vehement opposition to the proposed legislation which will ban extra billing by Ontario's doctors. This arbitrary, draconian piece of socialist nonsense will result in a steady deterioration in the quality of medical care available in this province, as the best doctors leave and the ones who remain become increasingly frustrated and indifferent. The current status of socialized medicine in Britain, where unions more and more are insisting on private medical coverage, is a clear example of what we can expect in Ontario."

An opportunity bulletin that I have in my hand was sent to Ontario doctors. It is rather amazing to learn how fast the other side of the border realizes what a quagmire we are getting ourselves into in Ontario. Family practice on this opportunity bulletin: Texas, solo 1.5 million service area near Dallas, board certified, guaranteed net income; California, solo with coverage 50,000 service area, San Francisco area MD, guaranteed net income.

The list goes on: Kentucky, Florida, North Carolina, Indiana, Kansas, Utah, Ohio, Texas, Illinois and Mississippi. It is an unbelievable shopping list from our American counterparts, who are smart enough to realize the desperate situation we in Ontario are going to find

ourselves in with doctors if we do not sit up, take note and think about this legislation.

8:30 p.m.

One of our great bone specialists in Barrie, who puts little children back together again after severe accidents, is Dr. T. Porter. He shared with me some of his terrible experiences. Here is a man who may make a great income in a year. He probably works 15 hours a day, 360 days a year. He has a standing offer from the state of California to relocate in the Los Angeles area. He would be paid a guaranteed US$300,000 a year if he simply went down to work in the United States of America.

It is a sad state of affairs when our health system gets to the point where they start coming across the border by letter and by phone. This, by the way, was a phone call received between Christmas and New Year's, which this doctor shared with me.

He said: "It is hard to turn down, but I am a Canadian first and foremost. I love the province of Ontario. We have created the best economic climate here in this province that we have anywhere in the Dominion, and I want to stay and practise medicine. I have a family. I have three boys. I enjoy this province and this country. I do not want to be forced to become an American citizen."

That is what it is all about. It is forcing professional men with years and years of experience, men who save lives, men who put people back together again every day of the week, to leave. They do not want any thanks. They do not want any pats on the back from the Minister of Health or the Premier (Mr. Peterson). They simply want to be left alone to practise what they do best: it is called saving lives and helping people in need in the medical system today.

We have all heard of E. D. Myers, president of the Ontario Medical Association. In his letter to the Premier he states:

"We expressed great eagerness to participate in a fundamental reconsideration of how health care is delivered to the people of Ontario and how it is funded. We further agreed that in the context of such a study, physicians' billing practices should be a part of the exercise. We suggested further that while a study was under way we would assist you in ensuring that the financially disadvantaged were exempt from any direct charges by physicians."

When one takes a moment to read that, one really wonders whether there is any sense of caring on the other side of this great chamber at all. Indeed, one has to surmise that political expediency is the only answer, the objective on the other side of this chamber and of the little red rump to my far left. I wonder whether that is not the overall gain. It is not health care, it is not the wellbeing of the people of this province; it is simply a chance to jump at what they see as a politically favourable climate.

He goes on to say:

"In the final analysis, you refused to hold back legislation on the opt-out question pending such a study. In short, it was you, not we, who refused to negotiate."

I honestly suggest that the record will show in time to come that it was the government, not the medical profession, that refused to co-operate.

Letters are coming in from people all over the riding saying, "I definitely agree with the statement made by the president of the medical staff." In one of my colleagues' ridings, at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, Dr. Pritt Pallopson writes, "The doctors' concern is not about money; it is about freedom." It is a fundamental freedom that goes back a long way.

The members will notice that at least one of these letters mentioned the government's draconian measures. The members should ask themselves, "Where have I heard that term in this regard?" With little investigation they will realize that came from a colleague across the House, the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson), a member of the Liberal Party and a gentleman who enjoyed for a time a sojourn in my riding of Simcoe Centre.

One may ask, "What is this voice of reason doing in the Liberal Party of Ontario?" Who knows? He may be asking himself that same question today. I imagine he asked it yesterday, the day before and the day before that. He knows he would be most welcome in the Conservative Party, a party made up entirely of men and women of reason. The member for Humber would fit in and would be welcome.

As I mentioned previously, we are a party of reason and compassion. That did not happen by mistake. It amazes me how some of the members on the other side of the House seem to think we just stumbled on to this. They will find out as they go along in the course of the next few weeks, months and years, for as long as this so-called agreement lasts, that reason and compassion are something one learns and something one does not take for granted. It is for that reason I thank the member for Humber for his rational approach to this matter.

I can understand that his having a seat on the government side of the House could not be more

appropriate or more urgently needed than it is today. There is a real need for the member for Humber's services over there. If the government continues its present course, the need will grow larger and larger as time goes on.

One cannot take on all the people all the time simply to prove and show that one is going to accomplish something, that one is to going to tell the people of Ontario and show the people of Ontario that, by golly, one has acted, done something and really made some moves. Indeed one might, but for every step forward I warn the present government that it may be taking five, six or seven steps backwards.

I have a letter I shall share with the House in regard to the dispute with the government. It is from Dr. Philpott. It encloses a letter written January 21, 1986, from Dr. Myers, president of the Ontario Medical Association, to the Premier and explains: "There have been private negotiations going on between the provincial government and the OMA on billing practices as well as global funding of health care in Ontario. Both sides have agreed the study should be carried out. Mr. Peterson refuses to hold back the legislation until this is carried out." As Dr. Myers says in short: "It was you, not we, who refused."

Surely we in this chamber, and surely this government, in history have spent much more than $50 million and never regretted spending that money. Surely we have spent $50 million and more on far more foolish things, on far more things that do not affect the lives of the individuals of this province now, tomorrow and in the future.

The present government should take a moment, sit back, and honestly ask whether it thinks the $50 million it is saving today in extra billing will really be $50 million in savings in a year, two years or three years down the road when the OMA sits down to renegotiate its fees.

8:40 p.m.

It does not take a blind man to see that in only a few short years the cost of medical care to everyone in Ontario, be he wealthy or a pauper, will skyrocket. We cannot play with the system for ever and not expect to suffer the consequences.

The letter from the office of the president, Dr. Myers, to the Premier goes on expressing great concern and wanting to participate in fundamental reconsideration of how health care is delivered to the people of Ontario and how it is funded. He goes on to say that he further agreed, in the context of such a study, that physicians' billing practices should be part of the exercise. The medical association is willing to do almost anything to stop short of entering into such a terrible piece of legislation.

As has been stated earlier in the House by my colleagues, the doctors do not want confrontation. They do not want to cause health care in this province to suffer. They actually want to sit down and negotiate, to talk with the present government.

Mr. McFadden: Why do they not talk?

Mr. Rowe: They are trying to talk. Unfortunately, in order to have a reasonable, intelligent conversation, one must have two parties. If the present government continues its no-talk attitude there will be no dialogue.

Dr. Myers goes on, "We further agreed, and suggested if a study was under way we would assist you in ensuring that the financially disadvantaged were exempt from any direct charges by physicians." When the president of an association such as this guarantees that the financially disadvantaged will be exempt from any direct charges by physicians, I wonder what the whole context of this bill is all about.

One must wonder about this whole situation when the doctors say they are not going to charge anybody who cannot afford to pay. "If the financially disadvantaged cannot pay, we will not charge. Let us put the thing on the table, set it to the side and we will discuss it."

One must wonder exactly why this government is in such a great hurry to get this bill through the Legislature.

Mr. Leluk: There is an election coming.

Mr. Rowe: Maybe it is an election. Maybe they want to walk out to the average man on the street and say, "We banned extra billing." God help that poor man two or three years down the road if he ends up paying a lot more for the same service, or probably less service. Then he will wonder if it was a wise move to ban extra billing.

Dr. Myers goes on: "The OMA now publicly presents you with the offer we made in private. The people of Ontario cannot afford a war between physicians and government. The stakes are too high."

On Friday of last week I talked to many older constituents in my riding. They are constituents who well remember the days when they had no money to pay the family doctor who dropped in to visit, who called to treat their sick children. They had no money, and the doctor knew that.

Did the doctor say: "I am sorry. I cannot look after your child since you cannot pay me"? In the history of this province that has never happened, to anyone's knowledge. The medical man, the

doctor, has always been and will continue to be a professional. He renders his service knowing it is service above self, somewhat like the Rotary Club I belong to in the great city of Barrie, whose motto is "Service above self."

I charge the present government to put that same motto to themselves, "Service above self." They might find it is time to stop and think about the idea of service above self, because we are playing a game of health care roulette in this province by continuing along the slippery slopes of socialism that we are on now. I can see problems.

On Friday I spoke to 165 senior citizens in a home, all of whom were on fixed, low incomes, and all of whom were at least twice my age, some three times my age. It was an experience for a young man such as myself to speak to them and listen to their questions. In the end, not one single person could see the wisdom in banning extra billing and everyone concurred with my thoughts: we cannot rob Peter to pay Paul; eventually, someone has to pay.

They could see through the smokescreen of the present government. With age comes wisdom. If 165 seniors at a home in the riding of Simcoe Centre can see through it, the present government had better be careful because there will be more from ridings all around the province. It has not addressed the real, fundamental issue of health care; which is not taking on the doctors. It will come back to haunt the present government.

In closing, let me wish the present government and its far-left friends much good luck in their proposal. Politically speaking, they will need it. I am convinced that by the time 17,000 doctors in Ontario speak to 17,000 patients every few minutes, the real message, the real problem, the real word will get out. I warn the government that it can play a lot of games and fool a lot of people but when it starts to fool with the health care of individuals, beware the ides of March for they will come back to haunt it.

Thank you for allowing me to take part in this most important debate.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to rise tonight to offer a few concerns on Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act. That is a long and unwieldy title but at least it has the virtue of being accurate, something that cannot be said about its short title, the Health Care Accessibility Act.

The figures are there with respect to accessibility to health care providers. Only about 12 per cent of all doctors in Ontario are opted out of the provincial health insurance plan. They are primarily members of specific medical specialities. They are primarily in locations as specified by the Minister of Health. Less than five per cent of doctors' claims involve some form of extra billing.

8:50 p.m.

Given these figures, any reasonable person would be hard pressed to declare that a state of crisis existed which was sufficient to warrant an attack on an entire profession. Any reasonable person might be tempted to suggest there may be specific problems to address, specific areas to negotiate and specific concerns that a reasonable person, dealing in good faith with other reasonable people, could resolve.

However, that reasonable person would find no one to talk to in this Liberal government. I should amend that. He would find no one to talk to on the benches to my left, but might find one man of reason remaining among the rest of the Liberal-NDP government across the way. We applaud the member for Humber.

Apparently there is still one man there who recognizes there must be reasonable ways to resolve this alleged crisis, ways that do not unfairly brand all doctors in this province as criminals whose sense of social responsibility is as thin as their wallets are thick. There is apparently one man who can see that there must be ways we can solve the health care crisis and still treat our doctors as the caring professionals that we, and the people of this province not blinded by the rhetoric of the left, know they are.

We applaud reason wherever it is found, particularly when it must stand alone against all the weight irrationality can bring to bear. If there is a crisis in health care, is it reasonable to suggest it is there because a few doctors in a few places extra bill a few patients?

Is it reasonable to assume that by a blanket condemnation of the doctors of this province as rapacious criminals we will have greater accessibility to health care in this province? Or can we, by negotiating problem areas and dealing with the lack of facilities in a fair and reasonable manner, achieve what this bill purports to do?

This bill purports to give accessibility to the health care system. It does so by stigmatizing the providers of health care and turning them into civil servants so that presumably all the problems will disappear. But will they? Will the banning of extra billing provide accessibility to the people of Halton waiting for health care facilities? Will it help the 27 people on waiting lists for chronic

care beds; the 249 waiting for extended care beds; the 23 waiting for residential care?

If extra billing is banned, will the 20 per cent of the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital's acute care beds now used by patients waiting for chronic care facilities be freed up for the people who need them? Can the people now waiting six months for speech therapy at Joseph Brant hospital say, "I will have accessibility because no one's doctor is allowed to extra bill"?

Joseph Brant hospital will get a four per cent increase in operating funds, but I am told it needs 5.3 per cent just to hold the line. Will the end of extra billing mean the automatic end of financial problems for all our health care facilities?

Can the people who need opthalmologic outpatient care be guaranteed access because there is no more extra billing? What of those waiting for outpatient respirology or cancer programs? The list goes on, and not just at Joseph Brant.

Bill 94 purports to be the Health Care Accessibility Act. Where is the accessibility? This government makes a great noise about its commitment to health care accessibility. Where was that commitment last July, when it took this opposition so long to wring from the new Premier the promise that the one per cent increase we had given hospitals would not be jeopardized? It meant $330,000 to Joseph Brant hospital, but it took the concerted efforts of this opposition to ensure the government did not walk away from its health care commitment.

Where is the commitment from this government for health care accessibility for our senior citizens?

Last week, this government reannounced the Progressive Conservative program for integrated homemaker and other support services. It is a good program. We thought so last June when it was introduced. Seven and a half months of inaction by this government certainly have not alleviated that need; indeed, it may have aggravated it somewhat. We look forward to seeing some commitment from this government in the field of health care.

Last April the Progressive Conservative government, realizing that there were senior citizens who needed nursing home beds, announced an allocation of 4,500 beds in the province, up to 90 of those in Halton and a further 207 in neighbouring Hamilton-Wentworth. A government with a commitment to accessibility would have acted on those. They are needed and our senior citizens are waiting for them.

However, rather than deal with the urgent need of our senior citizens, this government prefers to deal with the wants of its accord. A ban on billing above Ontario health insurance plan rates is wanted by the accord. The nursing home beds are needed by the senior citizens. Bill 94 shows where the priority of this government really lies.

In fact, in December this government's commitment to health care accessibility for our senior citizens was put quite bluntly by the Minister of Health. When asked in estimates about the 4,500 beds, he stated that they were under review. When pressed further he admitted, "We will not end up with the 4,500 beds announced in April." When questioned again by our Health critic he said, "It is pretty apparent there will be a reduction of the 4,500 beds."

The Halton District Health Council, in its accommodation study completed in October, stressed the need for accessibility and the need for more beds. The need is there; it is documented. Where is this accessibility in Bill 94? Where is the commitment of this government to do anything but stick to its accord regardless of the cost and the long-term consequences for the people of this province?

Dr. Grant Lawford, who has a practice in Burlington, wonders about the same question. He wrote to me and the Premier:

"Labelling the issues as health care accessibility and extra billing is truly a sham and a smokescreen to hide the government's shortage of health care dollars. Bill 94 will not resolve this shortage and will ultimately make quality health care inaccessible to the people of this province."

Bill 94 is so onerous and so far-reaching that I felt it necessary to go back to my constituents to see what they had written and said that could have led to such a piece of legislation. Sure enough, I have letters relating to problems of health care access.

There are people who could not get into programs they needed; there are people who could not get into chronic care beds because there are not enough; there are people with problems getting access to health care. However, there are no letters about problems in getting access to a doctor; there are no complaints about extra billing; there just are no complaints that would lead me to believe that this legislation is needed or even wanted by the people of Ontario.

We all have heard of the polls showing that the vast majority of people in Ontario want an end to extra billing, but I dare say that, given the opportunity, they would all like their lawyers' fees controlled at legal aid rates as well. It is

human to say yes when something is offered free of charge.

9 p.m.

Perhaps the more worthwhile polling result is that an overwhelming majority of the people approve of the quality of care in the health care system in Ontario as it now exists. Perhaps those people responsible for wanting to push this legislation on to the doctors would do well to look also at the even more recent poll in the newspapers last week. It announced that close to one half of the adult population fears big government. They see it as a threat to their future.

This bill, this effort by the government to run roughshod over an entire profession, is one of the reasons people fear big government, and for good reason. "Who is next?" they wonder.

The people of Burlington are among those who fear this big government. They do not want to hear a knock at the door some midnight to be told, "You are next." They do not want to turn on the television and find their profession is being legislated and controlled.

I looked back to what the people of Burlington had to say about this alleged crisis in gaining access to doctors. Lorne German wrote to a Toronto newspaper recently. He said: "I suggest the Ontario government get off the doctors' backs. All it is is just a conspiracy to undermine our democracy."

Mr. German is a 67-year-old senior citizen, who is more concerned with preserving a system he believes in and appreciates than in listening to fairy stories about crises he knows he is not having.

I had another letter in which my colleagues might be interested. It was written by a doctor who has opted out of the Ontario health insurance plan. While he makes a number of comments, to which I will refer later, I was struck by one of his paragraphs. He writes:

"Early this week, my office received a call from an irate elderly senior citizen, who for obvious reasons was treated at no extra cost to herself, demanding to know what the difference was, having been previously unaware of the situation, so that she could forward a cheque for the difference to me even though she could obviously ill afford it. Despite her obvious intent to send along a cheque, it will be returned to her....It is nice to know there are a few independent-minded individuals in this day of government give away and take away everything to please the masses and therefore retain their votes simply to stay in power."

Distressing as it must be to those on my left, there remain in Ontario people who do not blindly follow the rhetoric of the free lunch and who realize there is still a place for freedom and the rights of the individual.

Perhaps members would be interested in hearing the belief of Irene Horne, who is not a doctor. She is one of the people of Burlington for whom this government says it is speaking. She says:

"I wish to make known to you my strong feelings regarding the intention of the Ontario government to introduce legislation to force doctors to practise within the limits of the present OHIP system.

"I feel that the government should not force itself into the relationship between the individual doctor and his or her patients. It seems to me if a doctor wishes to opt for practice outside the OHIP framework and if the patients of that doctor are willing to accept that decision, even if it involves extra billing, then no other parties need interfere in that relationship.

"For the past nine years, my family and I have been patients of Dr. Dennis Brodie of Burlington. Dr. Brodie has practised outside of OHIP for most of that time and we willingly paid a small extra price for the services of this excellent and caring professional. The extra time he takes to give clear explanations and reassurances has contributed significantly to our peace of mind regarding matters of health.

"It angers me greatly to think that this quality may be jeopardized by his being forced into a kind of practice of medicine where that time is no longer available.

"I value the kind of care we presently receive from this doctor and I wish to go on record as opposing legislation forcing our doctor into the OHIP mould. Surely there are better ways to search for solutions to problems in the health care field than this coercion of individuals."

Any reasonable person would agree with Mrs. Horne. There must be a better way of solving problems than the coercion of individuals, but we are not dealing with reasonable people. When reason conflicts with ideology, then reason, apparently, must take second place. Reasonable people negotiate. Ideologues impose solutions based on their single-minded view of the world. These ideologues work on the conceit that they and they alone speak for the people of this province; but for whom do they really speak?

Do they speak for Ray and Nancy Olexiuk? They wrote to the Premier as follows:

"As a taxpayer and a citizen of the province of Ontario, I am writing to voice my opinion regarding your proposed ban on extra billing. I would like to say we strongly oppose your government's position.

"The citizens of the province enjoy medical care second to none in the entire world and we resent the fact that legislation of the type your government is proposing will start to drive our medical doctors out of the country, but more important, you will soon be dictating where, when and by whom we will be given medical attention.

"I suggest to you that your government stop extra billing at the gas pumps and work harder to eliminate the deficit in the province so that each citizen will have some funds left to spend with his or her doctor of choice.

"Policies such as the one you propose should make true Liberals of days gone by roll over in their graves.

"You may think it politically expedient to appease your New Democrat socialist friends, but rest assured there will be another election day in the province and citizens will remember your strange bedfellows."

In letters and phone calls, the people of my riding say they do not want this legislation. Many say they are frightened by this unilateral, Big Brother move.

Certainly, the Liberal government does not speak for Oleg and Deirdre Gibb, who also wrote to the Premier. They said:

"I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms your proposed legislation regarding banning of extra billing by the doctors of our province.

"I feel this is a most regressive and repressive step and can do nothing but harm to the health care system as it exists at the moment.

"There are professional men and women with great pride in the services they offer. I can see nothing but harm coming if this legislation goes through. To make it a criminal offence to charge what a person thinks he or she is worth is nothing more than an insult to dignified people who work hard and long on our behalf.

"I have nothing but praise for the doctors with whom I have dealt over the years since the system came into effect and I would hate to see this change. I have paid over and above the OHIP rates on occasion and feel that this is often justified.

"I am sure that with goodwill on both sides a compromise can be reached regarding rates more in line with those set by the OMA, and I sincerely trust that this method will be used to avoid a most unfortunate confrontation between your government and the medical profession. There surely must be a better way of dealing with this matter than what I see in the offing. I do not feel that doctors are the greedy, money-hungry people they are often portrayed, and I am convinced most of them have only their patients' interests at heart. Something is radially wrong when I have to pay as much to have my dishwasher fixed as to have a baby under OHIP scales."

The people with whom I have been in touch speak to the need for the freedom of doctors and patients to make their decisions without coercion, without an imposed settlement. Their accessibility problem is not with the health care providers but with health care facilities.

9:10 p.m.

Another constituent of mine, Chris Robinson, wrote to a Toronto newspaper. He recently came from Britain. He saw the results of socialized medicine and he wrote very directly about what he feels about Bill 94. It is unfortunate that not a single member of the New Democratic Party is here at this moment. It would have been nice for them to hear about the decline, what they can look forward to, what may happen in Ontario and what is now happening in England. That is what Chris Robinson wrote about. He said:

"I escaped from Britain's declining National Health Service and was delighted to find superb medical care in Canada. When I find these snivelling leaders of our provincial government attempting to destroy this excellence for the sake of a few million dollars, I want to throw up, preferably all over the corridors of power at Queen's Park." This legislation will make civil servants of doctors just when we need a doctor the most.

Mrs. Elizabeth Keegan wrote to me just this morning; and again she wishes to register her strong disapproval of Bill 94. She feels it is the first step towards socialized medicine, and that one need only look at Britain to see how effective that will be. She said:

"More alarming, I view it as a threat to the basic freedom of choice that we as individual Canadians are supposed to enjoy. The government has no right to legislate how an individual will earn his or her income. It is my right to choose a doctor either in or out of OHIP. Since there are currently only about 12 per cent of doctors or physicians who practise extra billing, I would venture to say that we already have a very accessible health care system and one that enjoys

a worldwide reputation for excellence at that. Why jeopardize a good thing?"

Most members in this House who have spoken so glowingly of the Saskatchewan system–the perfect system allegedly in place there–must have read with interest the recent Globe and Mail article about the doctors who won the right to opt out of that system. In fact, 80 per cent of the ophthalmologists in Regina wanted out last year. Perhaps there are flaws in paradise. Perhaps we in Ontario should be taking a second look at this legislation in order to preserve the rights doctors already have. Perhaps we should listen more closely to what the doctors are telling us.

Dr. Thomas Witton of Burlington wrote to me suggesting that although he is not in the habit of writing letters, "I cannot sit by and idly watch the introduction of the proposed Health Care Accessibility Act without some comment.

"As a medical practitioner of 35 years' standing, I find this legislation oppressive, disgusting and a personal insult to me and my colleagues who have given so much of ourselves to serve the public. The campaign of universal accessibility and free medical care to all is nothing but a political sham. I urge you to use every power at your disposal to reveal this deception to the public for what it really is, a bare-faced ploy to capture votes. Please consider all the ramifications of what is happening before you allow this obscene thing to become law."

Dr. William Johnston writes: "Without going into a long tirade, I feel it sufficient to point out to you that I cherish the right to practise as I choose. Being able to limit my practice, I spend more time, give more personal attention and, I feel, more fully satisfy the needs of my patients than I could under other circumstances. I enjoy this personal relationship with my patients."

His patients will lose that relationship under this legislation. Dr. Johnston will be forced into a new kind of practice, a state-run, state-governed practice that neither he nor his patients will find to their liking. All of this will be done under the guise of accessibility to health care.

Dr. Roger Nicholson tells me he is an opted-in physician and always has been. In a recent letter to the Minister of Health he stated:

"Your proposed act removes all negotiating power with the government from the medical profession, leaving them only with the option to strike. This option, of course, hurts the third party, our patients and your constituents. Do you, Mr. Minister, realize that this is what the Health Care Accessibility Act offers the people of Ontario? We have no reason to believe this government will treat physicians reasonably once this legislation is passed and we will have no bargaining power except withdrawal of service."

Dr. Standret writes with concern and conviction:

"Surely it is fundamental in a democratic society that government has no right to dictate the price of any man's labour and to punish him if he chooses to set his own fees. To me, this is the most significant issue concerning this bill as it encroaches on a fundamental freedom. Unfortunately, this fundamental freedom is not significant to the socialist NDP/Liberal alliance.

"The NDP/Liberal alliance claims that some people cannot afford to see an opted-out doctor. If that is a real problem, then let us work it out. In my own case, clergy and people who receive welfare or the old age supplement are provided with free medical care. This is the area where arrangements with OHIP can be made. The government could supply needy people with a special code in their insurance number; or use their present cards, which now allow them free drugs, free ambulance, etc.

"Let the government identify to me who is needy. They already know. Then they should obtain an agreement with the doctors wherein these individuals will receive free care. This must be fair. It must be fair to the needy and must be fair to the provider, in that being over 65, for example, is not an indication of need.

"Health care is provided by health care professionals and by the government. The two must work in harmony and not with antagonism. Our system works well now. It is underfunded, of course. Surely to God we don't want a British health care system here, but that will happen if Bill 94 passes."

This government seems to want to follow the dictum of Machiavelli who said, "One who deceives will always find someone who is willing to be deceived." They think if they can wrap up the problems of the health care system, blame them on a few doctors overbilling a few patients, everyone will believe that this legislation, the Health Care Accessibility Act, will ensure accessibility to the health care system.

Dr. Issenman writes with this very concern to the Minister of Health:

"As an opted-in physician, I have nothing to gain from extra billing. However, I strongly object to the destructive attitude which the Liberal government has displayed towards Ontario's medical system. As an independent practitioner, the physician is able to work as an

advocate for the patient in obtaining services from government institutions. I can assure you that these institutions are often resistant to providing the necessary services to patients.

"OHIP works reasonably well, but only because there is an alternative. Without the threat of opting out, it would come to serve its bureaucratic masters in place of serving the patients. I say this as a physician who spends a fair amount of time trying to wring appropriate services and responses out of OHIP and other government bureaucracies such as the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

"Accordingly, I worry greatly at the willingness of the government to attack the medical care system for political expediency. I certainly support the physicians who are doing their best to resist legislation to ban extra billing and would personally go to the wall at any government attempt to ban a meaningful ability to opt out of the medical insurance system."

This government can certainly not deceive all the people. As I have pointed out, the people of Burlington recognize this bill for what it really is. They are not deceived. I read in the Burlington Post recently:

"It is a certainty that a majority of Ontario residents are far more concerned about the overall level of health care in this province than they are about a squabble between the health insurance program and the doctors over the amount doctors are paid."

9:20 p.m.

It was also the Burlington Post that pointed out, "The provincial government used the federal government's withholding of some $50 million in transfer payments as the reason for ending extra billing." However, it does not appear to have made any guarantee that the recovered $50 million will be used to improve health care in this province.

The government cannot make that guarantee because it knows it will cost far more than the $50 million just to compensate the doctors if it blindly goes ahead and passes this bill. That $50 million would allow only a 2.7 per cent increase in doctors' fees. The government must know a more realistic settlement will be in the $120 million range; and that just for compensation, not for the necessary increases in the health care field.

The people of Burlington are not willing to be deceived by this Liberal-NDP government and its spurious rationales for attacking a valued and respected segment of our society. The people are interested in ensuring access to quality health care.

As Dr. Larry Komer, a highly respected obstetrician says: "As an active participant in health care in this province I can honestly say the whole issue is more political than social or economic. Even though I am opted out of the health care plan, one third of my patients are still billed at the OHIP rate for reasons of need or compassion. Almost every physician I know who is opted out willingly does this. Therefore, I cannot see how universality is threatened and once again I think the physicians are in the middle of a political tug of war which at present is alienating the profession to government and taking our time and energies from what we really want to do, and that is to treat patients.

"Surprisingly, a large part of my practice is from outside of Burlington because of my experience in infertility. Patients routinely travel from Brantford, St. Catharines and even Peterborough to attend this practice. One of the reasons for this is that I can spend time with them and decrease the feelings of frustration and defuse some of their personal anxiety. The only way I can do this is to charge realistic fees; this demands being opted out. The patients certainly do not mind and would rather pay a little of their own money to have the time to be able to talk rather than be shuffled through the office.

"I have always stated, from the outset, that should this personal professional freedom be taken away from me, perhaps my only alternative would be to move to the United States to continue my practice. Perhaps many people in the community do not realize that many physicians with specialized areas of ability are still actively being recruited from the United States.

"As repugnant as this would be to me, it would have to be an option if the present legislation goes through unaltered."

Dr. Komer goes on to point out it is not mere idle threat; Burlington lost 20 per cent of its doctors in one period just a few years ago. From personal experience, I can say of the Liberal candidate who ran against me in the last election, his father has been a physician operating in Texas for the last seven or eight years.

I should perhaps remind the Minister of Health that these are the people of Burlington, residents of the region of Halton where, he says, the problems of accessibility are among the most acute.

When opening second reading the minister said: "If one is resident in Metropolitan Toronto, or in York, Halton, Peel, Peterborough, Simcoe,

Wellington, Waterloo, Middlesex or Ottawa-Carleton counties, one may well have difficulty finding a physician in a particular specialty who does not extra bill. It is this clustering phenomenon, as it has been called, that constitutes the problem that our proposed legislation addresses."

We have heard what the people of Burlington think of this alleged problem. They do not believe in it. They will not be deceived into thinking that subjugating doctors will magically solve the problems of accessibility.

In ending this so-called cluster problem, the minister appears to have taken the cloister approach. The Liberals have retreated to their offices, communed with the NDP and delivered themselves of the pronouncement that extra billing must end and all doctors are to be treated as possible criminals. Would that all the world's problems could be so magically and simplistically eliminated.

I remind the minister that when speaking of Ontario's hospitals in December, he is quoted as saying, "Health care in the 1980s requires a sophisticated and creative approach to priority setting and tradeoffs." Is his Bill 94 an example of that sophistication and creativity? Is taking a sledgehammer to an entire profession, questioning its humanity and compassion and blaming it for the ills of the health care system the way Liberals approach sensitive issues with sophistication and creativity?

If there are a few doctors creating problems for some people in a few identified areas, is it sophisticated and creative to turn every doctor into a civil servant under penalty of a $10,000 fine? Would it not have been sophisticated and creative to sit down with the health care providers, with the health care facility groups, with all the groups involved in the health care field and say: "What we want is the best possible care for everyone in Ontario, at the best possible price, with the best possible equipment. We all have to have priorities. We will all have to have tradeoffs. Let us now negotiate"?

The doctors were willing to negotiate as long as the threat of Bill 94 was not directly in front of them. We have all seen Dr. Myers's letter, in which he writes:

"We expressed great eagerness to participate in a fundamental reconsideration of how health care is delivered to the people of Ontario and how it is funded. We further agreed that in the context of such a study, physicians' billing practices should be part of the exercise.

"We suggested further that while a study was under way we would assist you in ensuring that the financially disadvantaged were exempt from any direct charges by physicians."

Could this government and the Minister of Health, in the interests of sophistication and creativity, not have sat down with the doctors and discussed this openly; and perhaps discussed a ban on the direct billing of those who are financially disadvantaged and seniors based on need, as part of the professional conduct regulations?

We heard previously from Dr. Standret of Burlington, who made a similar suggestion and described how the system would operate. That would appear to be a possible solution to ensure universal access for the financially disadvantaged.

The Burlington Post also believes there can still be a negotiated settlement regarding this bill. It points out that there are people who cannot afford to pay for medical care:

"That, after all, is the reason OHIP was created in the first place," its editorial explains, adding, "Nor should the doctors be put in a position of having to judge the financial status of their patients. They have sufficient pressures on them with looking after the physical and mental health of the patients."

There are solutions, the paper says; both sides should be willing to negotiate.

We have seen the doctors doing just that. They have offered to put aspects of their billing up for negotiation. They have offered to ensure the financially disadvantaged are not charged above the OHIP rate; but as we heard from Dr. Myers: "In the final analysis, you refused to hold back legislation on the opt-out question pending such a study. In short, it was you, not we, who refused to negotiate."

Where is the sophistication and creativity in priority setting and tradeoffs to say extra billing is banned? Let us talk. What is there to trade off when the most important item is taken off the table before negotiations are even allowed? Even the members on the left should be able to see some problems with that kind of approach.

9:30 p.m.

When the health insurance plan was introduced, the doctors were given the ability to opt out as a right. It was negotiated into the contract. Perhaps the members on my left could advise us what happens in the collective bargaining process they are so eloquent in defending if an employer says he is taking out something that has been previously won in a contract. What would

happen if a private sector boss were to call the union and say, "A lot of people in Ontario think your cost of living allowance is no longer relevant and you are making too much money"; or deal in this manner with any other bargained clause of a previous contract for that matter?

What would happen if the employer were to say, "Sorry, we have decided here in the board rooms that COLA, or whatever, is going to be eliminated from this and future contracts. Now let us sit down and negotiate"? Would the union negotiators show up? Would we hear rhetoric urging a strike? Would NDP members stand up for the workers or would they say the employer is right?

Why is the NDP not hollering about the concessions that doctors are being told they are going to have to make despite what has been written into the law? Does the NDP and its allies feel they can get away with things they would never allow a private sector employer to get away with? Do they feel the doctors would be too professional to strike, regardless of what is done to them?

Will they wait until the doctors have been bullied into submission, then stand up and welcome them into the ranks of the oppressed workers? Will they try, knowing that they and their pet government are the chief architects of the doctors' oppression?

I fear that for some short-term political pleasure the NDP is in for a long term of labour pain. They will have no one to blame but themselves when there are no obstetricians to help in what will be a most difficult electoral delivery.

To conclude, I cannot and will not support Bill 94. I will not be deceived that this can in any way guarantee accessibility to health care and I will not be party to an attempt to deceive the people of Ontario that it will.

I cannot support the attempt to subjugate the doctors of this province to take away their ability to bargain and to determine their worth in such an arbitrary and antidemocratic way. The citizens of this province, and the citizens of Burlington, deserve the right to retain their health care delivery system in all its excellence.

Mr. Leluk: I am very pleased to rise to speak on Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act. The short title of this bill is the Health Care Accessibility Act. It provides for a complete ban on extra billing for all insured physicians' services, all insured dentistry services performed in hospitals and all optometry services. Under the proposed act these services are to be provided to all Ontarians at OHIP rates.

The minister stated that the government's intention is to preserve the principles of universality and accessibility in Ontario health care and to ensure that all patients have access to the physicians of their choice and that they are able to seek necessary health care free from any financial constraints. Let us look at the question of accessibility.

It may be true that some patients may not be able to obtain treatment services in certain areas of the province in certain fields of medical practice, except from physicians who extra bill. At present, however, only 12 per cent of Ontario's 17,000 physicians have chosen to opt out of OHIP. We have heard from several previous speakers that only five per cent of that percentage extra bill. This total has decreased since 1979, when 18 per cent of the physicians in this province were opted out. Many physicians who have opted out do not charge rates in excess of the OHIP rates. They are specialists who usually take the patient's ability to pay into account.

The option of opting out gives physicians a way to deal with problems in the OHIP fee schedule without endangering or withdrawing their services. As the Premier of this province used to say when he was the Leader of the Opposition, it provides a safety valve. The ability to opt out ensures that first-rate physicians will remain in Ontario. If physicians are denied this option, our world-class specialists, with all their skills and knowledge, are most likely to leave this province, and they will be the hardest to replace.

I know the Premier has said on occasion that he does not believe this will happen. I want to remind him of the some 12,000 Canadian-trained physicians who are currently practising in the United States of America because of the so-called brain drain. There is a very strong possibility that we will lose some of our finest world-class specialists and physicians, who will be very, very difficult to replace.

I want to remind the minister that physicians are not civil servants; they are self-employed professionals. When medicare was established some 18 years ago in this province, physicians agreed to medicare provided that they could retain the right to opt out of the plan. The government's honouring of this social contract is very important to the physicians of this province. There is a principle at stake here. The physicians

are upset with this proposed legislation, referred to as the Health Care Accessibility Act, because they feel there is no service that is more accessible in this province than physicians' services.

The member for Humber made a very eloquent speech in these chambers on January 28. He is no newcomer to the health care system. He is a reputable physician who has worked in a general family practice and in a specialty practice, which is psychiatry. He has practised in community hospitals, in an academic teaching hospital, in three government hospitals, in a university clinic and in a university clinical institute.

9:40 p.m.

He has published widely and, as he indicated in his remarks in the House, his contributions have been cited, noted and honoured on six continents. I have come to respect this person not only as an individual but also as a member of the health profession, and I commend him for expressing his concerns as a professional in a very forthright and honest manner.

I know it is always difficult for members of this Legislature to differ with their colleagues, particularly government colleagues, on issues and policies, and it takes a great deal of courage to do so. It indicates to me the member for Humber's deep commitment to principle and to quality health care for the people of this province. I may be referring to some of his remarks from time to time this evening, not for the purpose of causing him embarrassment or to embarrass the Minister of Health, but because I feel very strongly about the comments made by the member for Humber with respect to the legislation currently before this House.

He has said that he knows the problems of practitioners and how those problems impede good work. He stated he believes he is as qualified as most people in Canada to know what does and does not succeed in health care service delivery. He stated that, to be fair, physicians' services are already equal to and more accessible than any other area of professional endeavour. The physicians argue that no one has been denied treatment because it was beyond his means. Despite extra billing, all Ontarians have access to the best available medical care at Ontario health insurance plan rates. What a shame that this government has stooped to Mackenzie King's tactic of divide and conquer in setting the community and its physicians against each other to serve its own political ends.

During the last provincial election, the leader of the official opposition at that time made a commitment to the people of this province that if that party formed the government it would do away with extra billing. The present legislation is part of the deal the current Premier and his government made with the third party for its support to put the Liberal minority in power at Queen's Park; there is no question about it.

Steps have been taken to ensure extra billing does not compromise accessibility to health care services in this province. A province-wide telephone system assists the public in locating opted-in doctors. There is a joint Ontario Medical Association-Ministry of Health committee that reviews patients' complaints about billing. Regulations under the Health Disciplines Act provide that physicians who extra bill must notify their patients in advance of treatment of the amount of the extra fee. Medicare was designed as a floor plan to ensure that everyone could afford adequate health care. The system now accomplishes that goal.

I would like to spend a minute talking about the present health care services we enjoy in this province. As a pharmacist and a member of the health care team, I think we are very fortunate to have the quality of health care we enjoy. Those of us in this chamber who have had the opportunity of travelling abroad and visiting other jurisdictions will attest to that fact. In my travels, I have taken the opportunity to visit hospital facilities and talk to physicians all over the world. We in Ontario are truly fortunate because we have a health care delivery system in this province that is the best in the world. We have world-class physicians, specialists and facilities. It is no wonder that people come here from all over the world. I do not want to say that they take advantage of our health care system, but they do come here because of it.

Recently, a young lad from Guyana who had a problem with his arm was operated on in one of our hospitals. We have had young people like Herbie from New York, who came here because he required a physician with special skills to treat a medical condition he had. People from all over the United States come here to the Shouldice Hospital, which specializes in certain types of surgery. People come here to avail themselves of our specialists, our orthopaedic surgeons, like Dr. Walter Bobechko at the Hospital for Sick Children, or Dr. James Bateman. These are people who are world renowned, who are known for their skills.

Unfortunately, we in this province take much for granted. I can recall that some years ago I visited Mexico. Being on my honeymoon at the

time, I was enjoying a few drinks. I had too many frozen daiquiris and I froze my larynx.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I hope the member did not drive.

Mr. Leluk: No, I was not driving.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Good.

Mr. Leluk: Anyway, anyone who has ever had a frozen larynx will know that this is very painful. I know the Minister of Health does not quite know what I am talking about, but I am sure his medical colleague will tell him.

I called the house physician at the hotel and found that he was incapacitated himself. So I said: "What do I do? Here I am in a strange country. I need a doctor." Finally, after several telephone calls and complaints, the hotel management had a physician call me. I said, "I am in need of medical attention." The physician said: "You do not really need to see me. Why not just go down to the local pharmacy and pick up a bottle of Percodan and a bottle of tetracycline?" I know the minister's medical colleague will tell him that Percodan is a narcotic painkiller and tetracycline is an antibiotic.

I did. I went to the local pharmacy without a prescription. In this country one could not obtain Percodan without a prescription from a physician. When I arrived at the pharmacy I saw two young people dressed in white smocks standing behind a counter. I approached that counter and said, "I would like a bottle of Percodan and a bottle of tetracycline." The young lad reached behind him, took these bottles off the shelf and gave them to me, and I paid for them. There was no prescription label. They were given to me just as they were, directly from the manufacturer.

It is a good thing I am a pharmacist who understands something about these drugs; but what about the patient who might have visited that pharmacy and did not know anything about those drugs and did not know what he was getting? That is a very good example of the health care service that we do not enjoy in this country. We are very fortunate here.

9:50 p.m.

I want to talk about another incident. About 10 years ago my wife had two ruptured discs in her back. This is a very serious problem. I can recall her going to see an orthopaedic surgeon, who put her on painkillers and antispasmodic drugs because of the spasms she was having in her back and the excruciating pain she had because of those spasms. She went to see Dr. James Bateman at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital on Wellesley Street. After being on medication and in traction for about a week, he told her he would have to operate on her or she would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life.

That is a very serious situation for a young person to face, knowing she could spend a good part of her life in a wheelchair. I remember her discussing this with me, saying: "I am afraid. I do not want to go in for surgery." I said to her: "We are fortunate to have the facilities and the quality of physicians, surgeons and specialists that we enjoy in this province. I am sure you will be in good hands."

She did go in for the surgery and spent nine weeks recovering in hospital, but today she is walking. She can do most things that most people can, such as work in the garden, and she is enjoying a good life.

While she was in the hospital, I used to visit her every day. I met a young couple there from the Bahamas. The wife had been in a serious car accident in the Bahamas. She had crushed a number of cervical discs in her neck and was in very bad shape. The Bahamas did not have the facilities, nor the quality of trained physicians and specialists that we enjoy in Ontario.

Her husband then decided to put her in a Miami hospital. The husband came up from the Bahamas to be with his wife during her ordeal, and he said to me: "She almost committed suicide in that hospital because the care was not the kind of care that we are getting here. She used to crawl on the floor on her hands and knees hoping she would die because of the pain and agony that she was experiencing.

Dr. Bateman operated on that young woman and in seven weeks, she left that hospital walking. I remember her husband saying to me, "Aren't you people here in this province fortunate that you have an OHIP system, a hospital insurance plan that will cover your costs for this type of surgery?" The cost to that couple for the surgery incurred and for the medical care was somewhere in the area of $14,000. He told me: "It was a bargain to see my wife up and walking about. We are going to enjoy life."

It causes me some concern that we in this province take for granted a health care system that was painstakingly built over a number of years to become the best health care delivery system anywhere in the world.

We have had people like Senator Ted Kennedy visit Queen's Park. I spoke to him. He was head of the Senate health committee and he came here with the express purpose of studying our OHIP system. He said to our caucus when he met with us, "This is one of the finest health care systems

anywhere in the world." He only wished they had such a system in the United States.

I want to talk now about the method by which the Minister of Health brought this legislation into this House, not unlike the two pharmacy bills, Bills 54 and 55. There was no negotiation with the medical profession. The Premier had stated that the provincial government was firm in its commitment to ban extra billing. The only thing it was prepared to work out was the method of implementing the ban.

Representatives of the Ontario Medical Association met the Premier on several occasions during this past fall to discuss problems in the health care system. They agreed that the dilemma presented by increasing needs and scarce resources required urgent attention. They expressed a great eagerness to participate in a fundamental reconsideration of how health care is delivered to the people of Ontario and how it is funded.

They further agreed that in the context of such a study, physicians' billing practices should be part of that exercise. They suggested that while a study was under way, they could assist the Premier in ensuring the financially disadvantaged of this province were exempt from any direct charges by physicians.

What happened? In the final analysis, the Premier, through his Minister of Health, refused to hold back legislation on the opt-out question pending such a study. In short, it was this government and not the OMA that refused to negotiate.

It has to concern me, as a member of this Legislature, that on that side of the House, the Liberal member for Humber opposes this bill. He is a very qualified medical practitioner, who possesses those skills and that knowledge, and he has to stand in this Legislature and speak against this proposed legislation.

Mr. McLean: It is not hard to do.

Mr. Leluk: No, it is not hard to do, I agree, because it is ill-conceived and very poor legislation.

Mr. Barlow: Draconian is the term.

Mr. Leluk: Yes, I believe the member for Humber used that expression–that it was draconian.

He said that as a professional who believes in professionalism, he cannot support this method. He says one cannot improve the health care system by seeming to alienate and demean the professionals one relies on to provide the services and leadership that help make the system work. That is exactly what this legislation does.

10 p.m.

He says further that "the apparent permanent civil conscription of virtually an entire profession in peacetime is a serious and disturbing matter. I feel conscience-bound to oppose it. I believe such a step"–referring to the proposed legislation–"to be unwise and I would argue that point just as vigorously for any other group as I would argue it for physicians."

I take it by that that he is probably referring to the pharmacists in this province, who are currently facing a similar situation with Bills 54 and 55.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Did the member vote against that or not? I forget.

Mr. Leluk: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has to be kidding.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The Conservative members did not vote against the pharmacy bills.

Mr. Leluk: Not yet.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: They have had second reading.

Mr. Leluk: That is all right. There is also a third reading.

It disturbs me that the Minister of Health is having difficulties with the pharmacy bills. In the standing committee on social development the other day, when representatives of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association appeared to make their presentation, they spent an entire afternoon discussing those two bills and their concerns with the proposed legislation. They had representatives there from Woods Gordon, a well-known firm, and their solicitor, Mr. Don Mills.

Despite their attempts to explain the difference between actual acquisition costs, as a method proposed for the costing of drugs under the Ontario drug benefit plan and Bill 55 in the free marketplace and the concept recommended by Dean John Gordon in his commission report, the minister had to struggle to try to come to grips with the difference. It has to concern me when a government has a minister who is having this much difficulty in trying to understand why certain legislation he has put forward is going to be detrimental to the health care of the people of this province.

The member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan), who I thought was very demeaning in his comments in this House about the profession of pharmacy, also has difficulties. It took him almost two months to come to grips with the difference between a pharmacist and a peanut vendor and a pill and a peanut. When that kind of mentality is exhibited by certain members on that

side of the House, one has to be concerned for the welfare of the people of this province.

Physicians may not be a popular group in our society these days, but that is not the issue before us. What is at issue is the health care of the people of this province and the democratic right of two people, as the member for Humber has stated, to negotiate a simple contractual agreement with each other, perhaps with certain safeguards provided by the state to guard against monopolistic fee-setting, but essentially at arm's length from the state.

The member says further that he is defending the people of Ontario from what he feels to be the threat of a weakening of the present health care system in this province. He is arguing for democracy and freedom. He says further, "Freedom is not negotiable."

We have not learned in this province and this country from the experiences of other jurisdictions. As we are moving towards socialized medicine in this province–

Mr. Wildman: That is what we need.

Mr. Leluk: The member for Algoma will be like his colleagues in Britain who are trying to get into the other system.

Mr. Wildman: Margaret Thatcher has been in power there for 10 years, has she not? Why is she screwing things up so badly?

Mr. Leluk: Is that right? As I was saying, in Britain they now have socialized medicine.

Mr. Wildman: That is right, but Margaret Thatcher is in charge of it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order.

Mr. Leluk: Our minister has stated he did not want to see–

Mr. Wildman: What we need is more Heseltines.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Leluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Minister of Health has said we do not want a two-tier system of medical care in this province, one for the financially disadvantaged and one for the so-called rich. However, that is exactly what we are going to have if the legislation passes in its present form. It will be a two-tier system. So we have not learned a thing from the experiences of other jurisdictions.

However, what do we currently have? We have a total breakdown of dialogue between the physicians and the government, which does not bode well, in my view, for the health care of the people of this province.

The complete failure of government, through its Minister of Health, and the Ontario Medical Association to find a basis for discussion on matters of mutual concern, including extra billing, exemplifies that breakdown in dialogue. What we have is each side blaming the other. As the member for Humber stated, "Surely the prescription for that breakdown is renewed efforts towards dialogue, not severe legislation."

The member for Humber went on to say he is worried as well "about unconscious bias and attitude in the shaping of this legislation." He said, "Physicians who represent the mainstream of clinical experience and wisdom are, one suspects, often not close to the drafting of policy and legislation to do with the health care of Ontario."

These are primarily the highly trained experts to whom we should listen very carefully. That is why I say I do not know who the Minister of Health is listening to on that side of the House, but he certainly does not seem to be listening to the member for Humber.

Mr. McLean: He is not even listening to the member for York West.

Mr. Leluk: No, he is not listening to me because it is all a fait accompli. They are just going through the exercise, just as they are with the pharmacy bills.

10:10 p.m.

"The only valid yardstick by which to measure the wisdom of health policy and legislation is the criterion of what is best for the people of Ontario," according to the member for Humber. "However, though health care is a political issue, we overlook at our peril that it is also and primarily a clinical issue by which people will live or die."

What do we have? We have the Premier now making gestures to the OMA and saying he is going to provide certain moneys for a special fund that could be administered by the Ontario Medical Association. This fund would be used to recognize, as he puts it, "excellence in physicians' services." He has also stated that he is possibly prepared to alter the penalty for extra billing, that it might be modified and that the government would be willing to discuss some of the system of merit payments for the more skilled and experienced doctors.

He now is starting to feel the crunch of a united profession that has told him it is not prepared to sit down and negotiate while the present legislation is in Orders and Notices. The doctors are willing to discuss concerns about access to medical care and some compromises are possi-

ble, but the proposed ban on extra billing is not acceptable to the medical profession in this province.

Mr. Wildman: Just to the majority of the people.

Mr. Leluk: I want to say to the member for Algoma that it will be those very same people who will suffer in the long run because they will not enjoy the quality of medical and pharmaceutical services or the high level of the health care delivery system they currently enjoy in this province. The member should ask people in Britain about the present health care system there. It is the consumer and the people of this province who will pay the price in the long run.

As the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) said in this House one day, what they have in Britain is assembly-line practice of medicine, where people line up in large numbers to see a physician on any given day. There is no way a physician can provide quality service to that many people.

It is not often I agree with the members of the third party, particularly with the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh). He said in this House: "Let me make a comment or two about the minister. As long as I have known him, which is since he has been a member, he has never shown any signs to me of being as evil as the current ads in the newspapers portray him. I have always found the Minister of Health to be a very conscientious, hardworking person–a little too serious for my taste, but to each his own."

I have to agree. I also believe the minister is conscientious and hardworking, but as the member for Oshawa said: "It seems to me the minister got bushwhacked by his staff. I believe there was a commonly and reasonably well understood problem and the minister probably said, 'Give me something I can do that is my own initiative and is not part of the accord, some wrong that should be righted.'"

I believe there must be some truth in that. The minister is not really getting the right bill of goods. Possibly members of his senior staff are not giving him a straight bill of goods with respect to Bill 94 or Bills 54 and 55.

Where is the leadership of the Minister of Health? He requires input and he needs to be able to discuss these things with senior staff, but eventually it is the minister who has to make a decision with respect to policy. Why is there lack of leadership?

The member for Humber stated that rarely in the history of democracy has any legitimate profession been so curtailed by the state in its freedom to negotiate a simple contractual agreement with a client. He said that even government insurers rarely try to dictate the value of goods or services; rather they spell out the amount of coverage.

He does not believe it advisable to regulate, control and perhaps demean the providers of life-and-death clinical services to that degree. The measures and timing of the Health Care Accessibility Act are therefore, in his view, excessive and ill-advised. He said what I said earlier about the present health care system in Great Britain: "Experiments in other jurisdictions, whereby physicians have become employees of the state, have not fostered first-rate clinical care. When all the doctors in a particular society are controlled and accountable to the state, they are not able to do their best work."

Mr. Newman: Carried.

Mr. Leluk: Did the member for Windsor-Walkerville say time? Carried? He agrees with me. I am glad to see there is still some sense of reason on that side of the House.

He went on to say that "the Health Care Accessibility Act proposes to alter fundamentally a system that has stood the test of time for thousands of years. It has fostered development of a health care system which, though imperfect, is perhaps the finest and fairest in the world." Anyone in this House would agree there is always room for improvement, but we do have the finest health care delivery system of anywhere in the world. I dare anyone to say to the contrary.

10:20 p.m.

We face a total breakdown of dialogue between physicians and government, with the physicians unwilling to come back to negotiate with the Ministry of Health because of the principle at stake here. We have this impasse, and no solution is in view.

All members in this House believe in equality, universality, comprehensiveness and assured access to our health care delivery system. We almost have that now in health care in this province. We have excellence as well, as the member for Humber has stated. What the government should be doing is improving what we have currently in our system by negotiating with physicians, not through confrontation or through lack of discussion and consultation.

It seems the popular thing for the government of the day to do is to take on the pharmacists first, the physicians second, then the dentists and the optometrists. Who is going to be next? Will it be the chiropractors or the nursing profession?

Until this government came to power, a mood of co-operation existed between all health professions and the previous government. This government has deliberately chosen confrontation, not negotiation. There were some differences in the past, but the government always tried to avoid confrontation. It would appear that this government is looking for a fight, but confrontational politics is not good for Ontario's health care system.

One of the major points of contention in the proposed legislation is that there is no negotiating mechanism in this bill. The physicians in this province are not going to go begging the government of the day to trade such a mechanism. It is the government, through the Minister of Health, that must show the initiative in this regard.

I want to say a word about the penalty section in this legislation for physicians who contravene the proposed legislation with respect to extra billing and who will subsequently be charged and found guilty. The penalty of $10,000 is punitive and excessive. We are not dealing with criminals. We are dealing with a professional body of caring people who have been providing excellent health care and medicare to the people of this province.

I hope the minister will come to his senses, not only with respect to this particular legislation but with respect to the pharmacy bills currently before the House as well. It is unfortunate that we seem to be going through an exercise when it is obvious it is a fait accompli in that the legislation will pass because of the support the present government enjoys from its accord with the third party.

As I said earlier, it is the people in this province who will pay the price in the long run. They will not enjoy the quality of health care delivery services they are currently enjoying.

Before this legislation goes to the standing committee on social development, I hope the minister will reconsider this ill-advised legislation and that we will not perpetuate the confrontation that exists between the medical profession and the Ministry of Health. In the Toronto Sun dated January 30, I read that the physicians, through the Ontario Medical Association, have obtained the services of a high-profile civil liberties lawyer, Aubrey Golden. If and when it passes, they intend to test this legislation in the courts.

The article states Mr. Golden "told reporters, 'I have never been so moved by the depth of feeling over an issue.'... The government, he said, is 'lurching ahead' with the legislation without exploring other options because it is enshrined in the NDP-Liberal accord."

The article continues: "Failure to examine alternatives, he suggested, will work against the government in the court. 'The courts will ask, is there no other way available to ensure that those who cannot afford to pay a doctor's fees have equal access to quality health care?'... Extra billing, he explained, is being used as a convenient political target to answer valid concerns about universal access to health care."

It goes on to say he will wait until this bill is passed before testing its validity in the courts and that the public will not tolerate doctor-bashing from the government.

I am at the end of my comments–

Mr. McFadden: Carry on a bit longer.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Lay off.

Mr. Leluk: Let me say something about the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) who just said–

Mr. Barlow: Bring the Treasurer into this.

Mr. Leluk: Let us bring the Treasurer into it.

In an article in the Toronto Sun dated January 28, it says, "The Premier's plan to totally socialize health care in Ontario goes far beyond banning extra billing by physicians. The Treasurer showed that yesterday when he revived the Grit election promise to abolish Ontario health insurance plan premiums. He said he hopes to eliminate premiums within three to four years and get the money from somewhere else." I wonder where that somewhere else is: from the taxpayers of this province.

Interjection.

Mr. Leluk: That is right–from the other pocket. This question of extra billing is nothing more than a red herring–

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is a commie plot; that is what it is.

Mr. Leluk: It is a red herring because it is not the extra billing that is at issue and it is not depriving the majority of the people in this province of access to a very fine health care delivery system.

Mr. Barlow: Not so far.

Mr. Leluk: Not so far, but it will after the legislation passes.

The Acting Speaker: Will you move the adjournment of the debate, please?

Mr. Leluk: If I may, I will just finish with one sentence.

The $50 million in transfer payments that is currently being withheld by the Department of

National Health and Welfare is only a pittance when one looks at the overall $1.6 billion raised annually through premiums. These pay less than 18 per cent of the $8.9 billion per year for the cost of funding the health care system in this province. What is really in question here is the underfunding of the current system; it is not the extra billing. We are talking about nickels and dimes.

On motion by Mr. Leluk, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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First Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, February 4, 1986
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 4, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FOOD LAND GUIDELINES

Hon. Mr. Riddell: As the honourable members know, our prime farm land is one of our most precious natural resources and must be protected for this generation and future generations. We all know about the development pressures that threaten our vital land base: urban expansion, transportation or utility corridors, landfill sites, resource or recreational uses.

During the past eight years the land use planning principles of the food land guidelines have been incorporated into official plans by most Ontario municipalities that have agricultural land. Today I am announcing a revision and strengthening of these food land guidelines because, quite frankly, we do not feel they are tough enough to do the job. In addition, the legal framework has changed in the intervening time.

The new Planning Act calls for Ontario to spell out areas of provincial interest in provincial policy statements. Municipalities and others involved in the planning process must take these into account.

Today my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) and I are releasing Ontario's proposed food land preservation policy statement. We are releasing this proposal for comments by government agencies, municipalities, food producers, agricultural organizations, members of the public and other interested parties.

We do not want to put this in place until the people who will be affected by it have had a chance to respond. We are setting a deadline of April 30, 1986, for their comments.

I wish to highlight for the honourable members a few of the important proposed changes in this policy. The first concerns urban expansion.

Under the current guidelines there are no time limits for justifying the amount of prime agricultural land required for future urban expansion. We want to change this. Our proposed policy establishes a maximum planning period of 10 years for determining how much land should be set aside for perceived future development.

There are far too many examples across this province where prime farm land has been designated prematurely. Because of unforeseen circumstances, some of this land is now not required for development for another 30 years, if ever. Under this policy, municipalities would no longer be able to take land out of agricultural production based on 25- to 30-year planning guesstimates.

Second, the policy has been broadened so it applies to all types of development on prime agricultural land, including Hydro corridors, pipelines and highways. The need to use prime farm land for this type of development must be justified and, where justified, siting and construction must be carried out in a manner that will minimize the impact on the land and farming practices.

The third proposed change concerns severances. Experience has proved that severances, originally granted to retiring farmers, or for housing for farm help, or to deal with surplus dwellings from farm consolidations, frequently change ownership and become nonfarm residential lots. Often people from the city buy these country lots and move in unprepared for the sounds and smells of farming operations next door. Complaints arise about the smell of manure or the noise from farm machinery early in the morning or late at night. Farmers, on the other hand, complain about trespass on their property, damage to machinery and crops and pilfering.

For these reasons, under the proposed policy, there no longer would be any severances granted for retirement or for housing for farm help. Accommodation for retiring farmers and needed farm help can be handled in better ways than by the fragmentation of our land resource. In circulating this proposal for comment we are also including a draft of a new set of separation distances to be used in planning nonfarm land uses near livestock operations.

In effect, this is an update of the 10-year-old agricultural code of practice. Where nonfarm uses have been permitted in the rural area, using the code has minimized conflicts. Unfortunately, however, past planning mistakes have created

many real and potential land use conflicts. They can interfere with farmers going about their normal business.

We need a thorough examination of the whole matter. For this reason, I also am announcing today a six-member minister's advisory committee to make recommendations on the right-to-farm issue. The legal term "the right to farm" usually means laws or policies to allow farmers to carry on normal farming practices without harassment from neighbouring land uses.

The chairman of the committee is Donald Dunn, director of my ministry's food land preservation branch. The other members are Dorothy Middleton, a dairy farmer from Crysler and president of Women for the Survival of Agriculture; Earle Muir, a fruit grower from Niagara-on-the-Lake; Barnie Evans, a cattle breeder and consultant from Embro; Otto Crone of Hagersville, a pork and cash crop farmer and chairman of the Ontario Farm Pollution Advisory Committee, and Ralph Ferguson, of Watford, a cash crop and beef farmer and former federal Minister of Agriculture.

There are a number of questions I want them to answer. What is the type, extent and seriousness of problems interfering with normal farm practices? Will our proposed new policy statement give farmers adequate protection in land use planning matters? How effective are other existing policies and should they be changed?

We also want this group to evaluate the effectiveness of farm operation protection programs in other jurisdictions and to examine the type of right-to-farm protection required by farmers in Ontario. The Ontario government is committed to keeping a land area available for agriculture on a long-term basis. We also want to ensure that agricultural activity can take place within that area with a minimum of disruption from competing or incompatible land uses. We feel the proposed policy statement on food land preservation and the right-to-farm study are positive steps towards achieving these goals.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Timbrell: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I do not want to detract in any way from the announcement of yet another task force, but I want to draw your attention to standing order 18(a) which reads: "Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the House collectively and by the members of the House individually conferred by the Legislative Assembly Act and other statutes, or by practice, precedent, usage and custom."

It is the practice, the custom and the style of this Legislature, sir, that when a statement is to be made to the House, the media do not see it or hear of it before the members of the House. However, I am told that today on Radio Noon, on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., this very statement was the topic of extensive discussion and that the Minister of Agriculture and Food participated in that discussion. I submit that the privileges of this House have been abridged.

Mr. McClellan: I would like to support the argument made by the government House leader.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is the matter? Is the member sick?

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: I meant the opposition House leader. I know he will agree with me that this kind of violation of the standing orders has never, ever taken place in this assembly before.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Speaking on the point of privilege, as usual the honourable member is inaccurate in his comments. There were no elaborate discussions of this statement this morning. I happened to be asked to speak to the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board convention, which is taking place at the present time. I referred to it in my speech. There was absolutely no discussion of any kind following the speech. One sometimes feels one has to go outside this House to get the kind of people who expect to listen to policies rather than come in here and–

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member brought up a point of privilege and I have let other members comment on it. As I recall, over the past number of years, other Speakers have received the same request from honourable members. I do not believe there is anything in the standing orders that says any individual must first come to the Legislature. However, I also add that it would be common courtesy to do so. I believe that is the ruling that has been given by many Speakers in the past.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PSYCHIATRISTS' SALARIES

Mr. Pope: My question is for the Minister of Health. It has to do with his ability to communicate and negotiate with the various client groups he is obliged to serve as Minister of Health. We have already seen the response of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association and the Ontario College of Pharmacists with respect to the ability of this minister to communicate and negotiate openly prior to introducing legislation. We have already heard the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) comment on the ability of this

minister and of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to negotiate with the Ontario Medical Association prior to legislating.

Medical staff at Ontario psychiatric hospitals are shortly going to begin job action that will remove their services from their patients for varying periods of time. This, along with other issues that have surfaced during the past couple of months–

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Pope: –will affect the quality of health care in this province and will also obviously affect the quality of health care being delivered in these specific facilities. Will the minister meet immediately with the doctors and avoid this unnecessary confrontation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I imagine the honourable gentleman knows that I have already extended the opportunity, through one of the ministry officials, for those physicians to meet with me concerning the question of working conditions. That took place at a meeting that was held almost a week ago. I think the member will acknowledge that offer was made on behalf of myself to those physicians.

Mr. Pope: I know what offer was made to the physicians. It was an offer by the chief negotiator representing this minister, who told the negotiating team representing the psychiatrists that he had no mandate to negotiate; that it was a new government, a new mandate and he had nothing to negotiate. This is exactly why during the past week the doctors have accused the minister of negotiating in bad faith.

This is what they told us directly. Is he telling me they are wrong? Will he instruct his negotiator to negotiate an end to this impasse?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is absolutely wrong. I have never refused to meet those people and talk about working conditions. I sat down and met with a group of four of those physicians earlier when a fact-finder had been appointed to make a report to me. That fact-finder has reported just in recent weeks. In fact, a report was to be made public on January 24. It was made public on January 22 as a result of some interviews and communications.

A meeting has been set up for Thursday this week between my parliamentary assistant and the physicians to discuss at a preliminary level some of the concerns they have with respect to setting up a framework for discussing working conditions.

Quite honestly, the reason I am not meeting with them on Thursday is that I am not going to be in Toronto to meet with them. I have requested that they meet with my parliamentary assistant so we can set up a framework in which we can enter into dialogue with respect to these working conditions at the earliest possible opportunity, and I will continue to talk to those people about those working conditions.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: This matter has been raised twice before in the Legislature with the minister's colleague the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Ms. Caplan). Why will his government not put in place the recommendations of the fact-finder? Why set up the fact-finder and then not accept the recommendations, the main recommendation being that there should be a process of negotiations whereby the doctors are allowed to bargain as a bargaining unit?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure the Chairman of Management Board alone can establish one guideline for negotiations with a professional group without looking at the entire question. I believe she has taken it under her auspices to review the style of operation of the negotiations for the professional groups who are hired by the people of Ontario.

I have provided an opportunity for the physicians in this case, as they requested. That I have also extended to them the opportunity to talk about working conditions is a positive step, one that has taken place at my initiative, to ensure they do not feel they are unable to have input into the style of practice in the psychiatric institutions in this province.

Mr. Pope: To quote the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), this is the same bafflegab that we heard with respect to the pharmacy negotiations and the doctor negotiations. The pharmacists know what the minister means by negotiation. He finally said it on November 27, an hour before legislation was introduced. The member for Humber knows what he means by negotiation. The minister is pulling the same stunt with the same rhetoric on this group of professionals. It is his obligation to get involved in this issue and settle it. When is he going to undertake those obligations?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member knows full well that I have extended my offices to speak to these people about their working conditions, as they have requested. I met with a group of physicians when I was at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. In my office, I met a group that was led by a former member of this august chamber. I have met those people and I have undertaken to look at their concerns about the

manner in which working conditions have been and are being determined in their facilities. This gentleman is laughable in his criticism of how open this minister and my ministry have been with respect to this issue.

2:20 p.m.

CANADIAN DOLLAR

Mr. Timbrell: I have a question for the Treasurer. I am sure that since the Treasurer assumed office last June 26, one of the things he has monitored daily is the value of the Canadian dollar and its impact on the province and its economy. Since he became Treasurer, through his actions, in particular in the budget of last October, we have seen the debts of the province move from the target of the previous administration of $1.2 billion to $2.2 billion. We have seen tax revenues increase by $750 million because of measures he took, plus growth in taxation from sources already in place. We have seen a windfall transfer from Ottawa of $250 million.

Can the Treasurer tell us today what he plans to do now–not in April or May, when he is planning his next budget, but today–to stem the growth in government spending and to take decisive measures to reduce the government deficit and contribute to bolstering support for the Canadian dollar?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member might have included in his litany the fact the credit agency, Moody's, reaffirmed our triple-A credit rating after taking three months to review the fiscal position of the province. I hesitate to mention that because we know Standard and Poor's, reacting immediately after the budget, reduced our credit rating from triple-A to double-A-plus. What we lost on the lemons, we got on the oranges.

As far as we are concerned, the commitment to fiscal responsibility continues. It was part of our election program, part of the commitment made by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on his elevation to this office and part of my statement both in the budget of October 24, and the statement in July.

Our commitment is to fiscal responsibility. We believe we must accept the programs that have been lacking in this province for so long to provide job opportunities and housing and to take some stand to improve the environment and northern opportunities. We intend to pay for those in a clearly understood and responsible way, which is part of the budgetary program I announced to the House on October 24.

Mr. Timbrell: It is amazing how Standard and Poor's and Moody's have a place in the Treasurer's order of importance today that they did not have about six months ago. What a difference.

The Treasurer will recall we have pointed out repeatedly that there was nothing in his statement of July 11, and nothing in his budget of October 24, with respect to the creation and maintenance of full-time employment in Ontario. He will also understand that because of what is happening to the Canadian dollar and interest rates, there is understandably a lot of nervousness in the business community about necessary investment decisions that must be made now for the balance of the calendar year.

What is the Treasurer going to do now in specific terms–not in April or May–to bolster their confidence and to sustain growth in Ontario, which in the main has been generated by policies of the previous government?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I hope the Minister of Finance for Canada brings the deficit of his government under some control. It has grown tremendously since the Progressive Conservative Party took over responsibility for our fiscal affairs. There is no doubt the falling dollar is associated with the concern felt internationally at the very high levels of deficit maintained at the federal level.

I understand the Minister of Finance for Canada is contemplating a budget in the next three weeks. I hope very strongly that this will restore in some measure the failing confidence of the investors because of the size of this deficit and the inadequacies of the government of Canada in bringing its spending programs under control.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer referred very acutely to the fact the dollar is falling, something all of us have observed. We have also observed that interest rates have been rising. Given the historic reality that higher interest rates slow down growth, destroy jobs and make it far more difficult for our economy to prosper and thrive, has the Treasurer made any particular representations on behalf of the people of this province to the federal government that going back to that tired technique of permitting higher interest rates in an effort to prop up the dollar only destroys real growth in the economy?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. Rae: Has he made representations to the Minister of Finance about the folly of that approach by the government of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am sure the Minister of Finance has read my widely reported comments

that indicate, as far as I am concerned, the dollar at the level of 70 cents has been remarkably valuable for the competitive position of Ontario.

I am very much concerned that interest rates, which have gone up a full one per cent in the last three or four weeks, actually from 10 per cent to 11.5 per cent, are throwing a wet blanket on the investment in housing which has fueled our economy so efficiently and effectively over the last six weeks. I feel very strongly that there is a larger threat to our economy in this province from high interest rates than the sagging dollar.

I do not have any better crystal ball than anyone else here, although I have access to the opinions of the officials in the Treasury who are usually infallible in these matters. Their indication and our hope is that the Canadian dollar will maintain a value very close to, if not at, 70 cents or slightly above during the coming year.

For that reason, we sincerely hope interest rates will not be allowed to move above what they are now. The concept of their soaring into the teens is something that fills me with apprehension.

Mr. Timbrell: That sounds amazingly like government by hope, prayer and maybe.

Since the Treasurer has difficulty dealing with the general question of economic policy and what can be done to sustain Ontario, let me ask about a specific sector. As the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, he will be well aware of the effect of fluctuating interest rates and the value of the Canadian dollar on the agricultural sector in the last five to six years. He will also be aware of the extensive efforts of both our government and his to deal with that problem. Surely he is also aware that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) is reported recently to have said that in the April budget there will be even more assistance for the farm community to deal with the problems of interest rates and long-term financing.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Timbrell: Rather than waiting for April, today or at least before the House rises in the next two to three weeks, can he disclose to us his exact plans for the farm sector so that, in the face of yet another round of difficulties with the value of the dollar and interest rates, they can plan with certainty for their crop seasons?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I will not list for the honourable member the accomplishments of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. He is very effective at bringing those to the attention of the House himself. In the budget we intend to have programs that will assist the farm sector and, as a matter of fact, the manufacturing and resource sectors on a wide basis. I am not prepared to enunciate our budgetary plans now because they are still being formulated.

The member must realize, because of his previous responsibilities and his good judgement which continues, all these matters are in the hands of the government of Canada. We certainly hope those people are going to bring down a budget that is going to moderate these changing and fluctuating values for the benefit of the whole of the country.

2:30 p.m.

ST. CLAIR RIVER

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of the Environment, who described himself the other day as not a fish-eater. There are a lot of other things I would call him as well. He is certainly not a pollution-eater either.

Given that his report stated on page 12 that Dow Chemical is the only known producer of chlorinated solvents in the area and is now dumping nearly two tons a week of this stuff into the river, what further evidence does the minister need before he launches prosecutions under the Ontario Water Resources Act and the Fish Inspection Act, since the evidence is overwhelming that Dow Chemical is today poisoning the water and fish in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As I indicated to the critic for the New Democratic Party yesterday in answer to this question, we are prepared to press charges against any of the polluters who can be identified as violating any of the environmental laws of Ontario. I am happy to do that if the evidence is there to justify that. The member points out there is in existence around there considerable evidence that perhaps would point to prosecutions in a number of areas. In terms of the spills we are prosecuting, in terms of the caverns about which we are prosecuting, and in terms of the specific instance he has again raised in the House, the member will be aware that we are prepared to prosecute if there is evidence. At the present time, the investigations and enforcement branch is working on that very item.

Mr. Rae: One does not have to be Perry Mason or Sherlock Holmes to go through the report and realize that a process of chemical pollution is going on and that the only producer of some of these chemicals is Dow Chemical. Dow is to the Great Lakes what Inco is to acid rain.

What is the minister's hangup? Why is there a delay in pressing effective charges rather than

this $5,000 penny-ante business? Why does the minister not get down to it, stop the discharges and start fining the companies, particularly Dow Chemical, that are poisoning the water and the fish? What is the delay?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Unlike the member for York South, I am not a lawyer and I am unable to bring to these matters the kind of legal expertise he brings to this House. I guess he has never appeared as a prosecutor. As the member will be aware, we have people in the Ministry of the Environment who are considered to be some of the toughest prosecutors to be found in Ontario. I know the member opposite would regret very much having to go into court against some of the people we have who have fought cases in the courts on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment.

We want to make sure we have an ironclad case. I know that the member, as a person who is familiar with the legal system, would want to ensure that the case we present is the best possible case. In that regard, we are gathering evidence to ensure that will be the case. When the member sees the ultimate results, I am sure he will rise in the House to applaud the efforts of the Ministry of the Environment.

Ms. Fish: The other day, when the minister made his comments in the House about the finding of dioxin in treated drinking water, he indicated his concern that there was inadequate identification of specific sources of the highly deadly pollutants in the water. Is the minister saying now that the sources are specific to industries located in Chemical Valley or is he maintaining his earlier position that the sources are ambient?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member is not really directing what I consider to be a supplementary question, but I am not the Speaker so I will answer the new question she asks.

Mr. Hennessy: The minister would like to be the Speaker and the minister. What a job! He can tell me to shut up and can answer his own question.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is not my goal, I assure the member. I am pleased to see him and the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) here now that the vote on first-contract legislation is over.

In regard to the question asked by the leader of the New Democratic Party, to which the member for St. George is asking a supplementary, if one looks at some of the specific materials and exactly where they are found, in cases where they are immediately adjacent to the outfalls of various companies, it is easier to tell precisely where they are coming from. When we are talking about situations that exist downstream, it is more difficult to pinpoint the sources. As I indicated, and I know the member will want to admit to the House this was the case, there are a number of possible sources and I rule out none of these sources.

Mrs. Grier: I would like to try a supplementary that might be supplementary to the answer given to my leader's supplementary.

Today the minister is reluctant to press charges until he has more evidence. In response to a question from me a couple of days ago, he was reluctant to issue a control order because he felt it might be appealed. I want to remind the minister that commercial fishing in Lake St. Clair was destroyed in 1969 as a result of mercury emissions from Dow Chemical. At that point, in March 1970, the then Minister of the Environment, the Honourable George Kerr, did issue a control order and that control order was complied with and the mercury emissions ceased. Why is the minister so reluctant to take immediate decisive action?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member will be aware that instead of–

Mr. McClellan: Let us have some more bafflegab.

Mr. Rae: Where is George Kerr when we need him?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is not bafflegab at all. It may not be the answer the honourable member wants to hear, but members of the House would agree it is not bafflegab. It is a real answer.

I am explaining to the member, and her leader recognizes this as well, that we want to proceed in the most effective manner. The most effective manner is a regulation that cannot be appealed. We will have the most effective and far-reaching regulation in this process, covering any jurisdiction in Canada and–who knows?–perhaps in North America.

When that is in place, the member will be in the House to applaud that initiative.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Treasurer. I have just learned that on September 18, 1985, the Pension Commission of Ontario approved the withdrawal of $75 million that was designated as surplus by Noranda Mines Ltd. Can the Treasurer confirm whether that withdrawal has taken place, and what does he intend to do to stop this incredible takeaway by companies of money that

really belongs to the working people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The withdrawal took place with the approval of the pension commission, as the answer tabled in the House a couple of days ago would confirm. This left about $54 million in the fund for the company to fulfil its responsibilities under its pension agreement. I am informed that the amount is 125 per cent of the requirement to meet the payout from the pension agreement.

The present law of Ontario allows these withdrawals of surplus funds. We are currently reviewing changes that may accompany changes to general legislation dealing with private pensions to deal with the matter.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is admitting that a company was permitted to withdraw 60 per cent of the money that had accumulated in that fund due not to the genius of the company but simply to higher interest rates. We now have information–and this is with respect to only two companies–that in 1985 and 1986, Dominion Stores and Noranda have withdrawn $137 million between them.

What does the Treasurer intend to do to stop the run which has clearly been taking place for two years, and which may now be intensified as a result of various statements he has made in the Legislature? What does he intend to do to ensure that those funds stay intact as of now? What does the Treasurer intend to do to protect the value of the investment of the workers of this province?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: A few days ago, the honourable member made reference to the possibility of a run on the pension funds. I have inquired about the level of withdrawals and those that are pending. I am assured they are not out of perspective with projections, and that the pension commissioners do not identify this as a run on the fund. The matter has to be reviewed before appropriate action is taken, and my colleagues in the cabinet are undertaking such a review.

Mr. Andrewes: It is the view of the pension commission that 125 per cent is adequate to protect the pension rights of employees. Is that view sustained by the Treasurer?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: There is no doubt that 125 per cent of the requirement will enable the pension fund to pay those requirements. The argument is put, however, that the surpluses might very well be attributed to improving the payout, particularly those surpluses that are accruing from the escalation in the economy and perhaps from no other source. We are concerned about those moneys and their allocation.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Rae: We are entitled to know this very clearly today: is it the view of the Treasurer that the money, which is contributed to a company pension plan on behalf of the working people of this province, is being held in trust? Does that money belong to the workers or does it belong to the company? Should it belong to the workers or should it belong to the company? Will the minister impose a freeze on all withdrawals until such time as he has indicated clearly to the House precisely what he is going to do to protect the money that is there, in our view–and let me make it very clear–on behalf of the working people, held in trust and not simply being held by the companies for the–

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Those important matters are under consideration by me and my colleagues.

LIQUOR LICENCE BOARD OF ONTARIO

Mr. Timbrell: I wish to ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations when, how and why he arrived at, and communicated to Willis Blair, his intention to sever Mr. Blair's relationship with the government of Ontario and the chairmanship of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I have not communicated anything to Willis Blair.

Mr. Timbrell: Is the minister therefore indicating that the report in last Saturday's London Free Press of Mr. Blair's imminent replacement by Mr. Drinkwalter, of the Ontario Police College at Aylmer, is unfounded? Or is he saying–and I hope he is–that he has every confidence in Mr. Blair and that he will continue to carry out his responsibilities?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am saying that the reports in any of the media are speculation, and just that. If there is going to be a change, it will be announced by this government in due course.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Swart: My question is also to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I am sure the minister must be aware of the long effort by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants to get insurance companies to use generally accepted accounting practices in reporting their financial results. In spite of the fact that they do not, the minister has defended the high escalation of rates by saying they have severe financial losses.

Since he is the minister responsible for regulating the insurance industry in Ontario, I want to ask him whether he supports the accountants in calling for this change so that he and the public will really know the profits of the insurance companies?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I can say to the honourable member that I do support it. It is one of the charges that have been given to the task force, namely, to see whether we can get some standardized reporting. As the member will know, it is very difficult to compare insurance companies because of that problem. Everyone has a different formula for determining profits. It is one of the things the task force is looking at.

Mr. Swart: In view of the minister's answer, may I remind him that two weeks ago my leader told him that profits for property and casualty insurance were up sharply in the third quarter of 1985? I quote the minister's response, "He should take a look at the 20 companies that are dealing only with liability insurance."

Is the minister aware that it was not until yesterday that his staff responded to repeated requests from our staff for the names of those 20 companies, and then they said, "Get it from the Insurance Bureau of Canada." Where is the minister's freedom of information, and is he not seen to be mouthing a defence–

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am very well aware of those inquiries. It is not our position in government to provide a research service for the member's caucus. He has his people and he has access to that information.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS' SALARIES

Miss Stephenson: I am somewhat intrigued at the schizophrenia of the government in relation to fiscal responsibility. As the Speaker will know, the salaries paid to cabinet ministers' assistants have skyrocketed rather dramatically within the last seven months. In the previous government, the maximum salary for executive assistants was $48,000. In truth, fewer than a dozen very long-term employees, including one of mine who had been employed in that capacity for 10 years, had barely reached the $40,000 level. Most of them did not make more than $40,000.

The present government has a minimum salary level of $45,000 for executive assistants and the upward limit is more than $56,000. That is almost equal, in some instances, to an assistant deputy minister's salary.

Will the Chairman of Management Board please explain this huge increase in salary which, I remind her, comes directly from the taxpayers' pockets?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a very good question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It was quite a lengthy question. Please do not take any extra time. Let the minister answer.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: I am pleased to respond and also to remind all members of this House that the Board of Internal Economy recently dealt with requests specifically from the outgoing government as to what its needs in opposition would be. The services and staff provided to this party when in opposition were significantly leaner. It seems the member's party could not hire anyone for less than $32,000 now it is in opposition. This is an issue the Board of Internal Economy addressed in dealing with this House, and those funds also come from taxpayers' dollars.

The point I would like to make is that this matter was reviewed by the transition committee. Recommendations were made to this government so we could hire the brightest and the best to ensure the efficient and effective running of this government.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will wait until everybody is ready. I do not mind.

Miss Stephenson: I am sure the Chairman of Management Board realizes that the salaries paid to executive assistants and special assistants have nothing to do with the Board of Internal Economy. These huge increases are not limited to executive assistants. The salary range for special assistants under the Liberal administration goes from $38,000 to $47,000. In the former government, the maximum level of salary for special assistants was $34,000.

As I said, this government has preached fiscal economy. Can the minister tell me when her government is going to start to practise it?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will wait until the members quieten down.

Mr. Martel: We want to hear the question.

Mr. Speaker: I really did not even hear a question, but does the minister want to respond?

Miss Stephenson: Yes, there was a question.

Mr. Speaker: Was there?

Miss Stephenson: I will remind the Speaker that there was a question. I want to know when the government is going to start to practise fiscal responsibility and stop this orgy of spending.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Fine.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: The point I was making in regard to the Board of Internal Economy was the issue that we dealt with quite recently for all members of this House, particularly the requirements of opposition members for their staff, which has increased significantly, and the representations that were made regarding the salary levels.

The issue of payment of staff is something we should all be interested in. There is not anyone in this Legislature working for a minister who is paid the salary levels of the federal members, who are paying in excess of $80,000 for a chief of staff executive assistant.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: If the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) would put his television set back where it belongs, we would be able to watch this.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) like to take the gavel? Time is going on and you are wasting question-period time.

2:50 p.m.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Gigantes: My question is for the Minister of Labour. Now that the government has informed the whole world of the details of the public service pay equity bill, will the minister explain why he is not tabling the bill in the Legislature today?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The legislation is nearly ready. As the honourable member knows, all pieces of legislation go through a number of cabinet committees and the wording of the legislation is now being reviewed.

Ms. Gigantes: According to the estimates that have been broadcast wide and far, the accompanying documents to the tabling of the legislation will indicate that women working in the public service of Ontario are owed up to and beyond $80 million. I wonder whether the minister will give us assurance today that women working in the public service in Ontario will start to see some of that money by the end of this year.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: First, the member will know we have to wait for the tabling of the legislation.

Second, the honourable member will understand, as she has been around here a long time, that once the legislation is introduced, the timetable and the progression of the legislation are as much a responsibility and privilege of the opposition as they are of the government.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. On January 14 in this House, I quoted the Assistant Deputy Minister of Housing as having stated that any new building by the private sector would be at the high end of the market and that only in 20 years would that housing become affordable housing.

The minister responded that this was the opinion of Gardner Church and that I should go back to the assured housing for Ontario policy as the policy that will provide affordable housing. In estimates Mr. Church has repeated his assertion and said it is a fact, that it is not an expression of opinion from the government and that these units will be luxury units.

Again, I ask where are the units that will address the affordability crisis in this province?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The honourable member knows that any housing start cannot begin today. We have to wait until the plan is constructed. It takes time to put up all this construction. He is asking where it is, and I am telling him the private sector has indicated very strongly and confidently that it will build. The member will see we are on target. The response has been tremendous.

Mr. Gordon: It is quite obvious the minister and the assistant deputy minister do not agree. The assistant deputy minister does know what is going on, nor does the minister. Nevertheless, the minister is relying on the Rent Review Advisory Committee to come up with a formula to get the private sector back into the housing market. The fact is his assured housing for Ontario policy is nowhere near assured. It is dependent on some magic formula.

What is assured about a program that is based on a magic formula that has not yet been arrived at?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The honourable member knows that Bill 77 was introduced and accepted and is now law. Bill 78, which completes the overall rent review process, is coming through very soon for second reading.

There is no magic formula. The Rent Review Advisory Committee is working out the details about how it will be implemented.

DOMINION STORES

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding the recent withdrawal of $62 million from the Dominion Stores pension plan. I am sure the minister has had the chance to review the data and the analysis of the Pension Commission of Ontario, which agreed to this withdrawal.

Can the minister confirm that the pension surplus was created in large part by Dominion's action in divesting itself of two thirds of its stores, along with those employees still working there, and the ongoing shutdown of many of the remaining Dominion Stores? Has Dominion not completely taken advantage of its employees, not only by reducing the work force but by thereby directly creating in large part the pension surplus?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Under the existing legislation a company negotiates its pension arrangement with its employees and they enter into a contract. Dominion Stores entered into a contract. It has funded in excess of the legal limits–actually in excess of 125 per cent. It applied to have its $62 million withdrawn. It was according to the terms of the arrangement. The pension commission agreed with it and allowed it to remove the funds, satisfying itself that all the obligations to the workers under that contract were satisfied.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Is the minister not concerned that the obligations have been severely reduced by the actions of divesting itself of the stores and laying off employees in the shutdown of further stores and that the pension surplus may have been created not by excess gains in the investment but by actions directed–

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I have no indication that what the honourable member says is correct. We are dealing with two separate issues. One is the pension issue and the other is a problem of store closings, severance and a labour problem. They are separate issues. Under the pension plan the pension commission is satisfied that nothing illegal, immoral or untoward has happened.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS' SALARIES

Miss Stephenson: I have a question of the Chairman of Management Board. Would the chairman provide for us specifically a list of all those assistants in ministers' offices who are paid at or above the maximum level set by the previous administration?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: Let me say I am amazed that this is the level of questioning that would be coming from a previous minister.

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: Further, I find very surprising the plethora of questions in Orders and Notices dealing with this matter. The payment of ministry staff is a personnel matter, and I do not see what the honourable member's problem is.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Miss Stephenson: The minister spoke earlier about the current government as an example of lean government. I hope her answer is not an indication that she is using either me or herself as an example of lean government.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: The lists of all the members of the staff in the ministers' offices, their salary ranges and all the appropriate information have been tabled here in the House. I frankly cannot see what the member is in such a flap about.

3 p.m.

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Premier. In the University of Toronto's statement of general objectives, approved by the governing council in 1973, it undertook "to maintain a breadth of endeavour in each broad field of knowledge." It included the professions in the list of fields.

Does the Premier agree the university may not be fulfilling this objective if it proceeds with the closure of the oldest faculty of architecture in Canada and the only one in Metro Toronto, and that this is a matter of public interest to the province, which provides substantial funding?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That was a very good question. The Premier.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sure it was a good question, but what was it? I am sorry; I missed something the member was quoting.

Mr. Hennessy: That is arrogant. Is he deaf?

Mr. Davis: It is in front of the Premier. It is on his paper.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, if you could control the members opposite, I would hear the member. She was quoting from something. I am sorry. I could not hear it and missed it.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the member could summarize the question.

Ms. Bryden: I asked the Premier if he agreed this was a departure from the stated objectives of the University of Toronto. Because it is a matter of public interest, what does he plan to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not familiar with the stated objectives. I gather the member read them and I am sorry I did not hear them. I will review the matter.

We take the view the University of Toronto is an autonomous institution. I take the member to this hypothetical possibility: If they want to add or subtract a department to that university or any other, should it be the minister's responsibility to say yes or no? Does the member want the minister to dictate which courses or faculties are part of these autonomous institutions? If she takes that view, she is pushing a far more intrusive attitude in education than has been historically practised in this jurisdiction.

As the minister has said, he is not happy to see this decision. The member and I know–at least, so I read in the newspapers–there have been problems at the faculty of architecture for almost a decade. Someone has been unable to solve them. I have no idea whose fault or responsibility that is. Presumably, the president came to the conclusion and is going to recommend that institution should be done away with. I have absolutely no idea whether the governing council or board of governors is going to subscribe to that view.

However, these are autonomous institutions. The member has to respect that, unless she is telling us the minister alone should be the czar of education and decide on faculties, colleges, schools, how many teachers and those kinds of things. That is the problem.

Ms. Bryden: The minister is retiring behind the smokescreen of autonomy. He is not discussing the public interest of the profession, the students seeking entry into it, and the needs of Metro Toronto for a school of architecture. He also is not considering the kind of public hearings that will be planned by the university. Will he sit down with the president and the governing council and discuss the kind of public hearings that will allow the reason for this decision to be discussed and the resources that may be available to maintain the faculty of architecture?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: To the best of my knowledge, the minister already has chatted with the president of the university and others involved, and he has expressed his personal view. I want the member to be very careful. If it is her party's policy that the minister should unilaterally set what courses are taught by which faculties and universities, or if that is her position, she should stand up and say it. If it is not, she has to understand one cannot just arbitrarily stick one's nose in occasionally when it suits one's purpose. One has to respect the process.

Obviously, there will be hearings. A matter like this should have a full public airing by the architectural community about the needs over a long time, and we would support that. Ultimately, someone has to make a decision. We respect the right of the board of governors to make that decision.

Mr. McFadden: If the University of Toronto goes ahead with its current plan, it has been suggested there be a four-year closure period, during which the students who are there now will slowly come to the end of their program, with one class after another, like ten little Indians; first there were four years, then there were three, then there were two and then one year. I feel sorry for the kids who might be in that last year.

With the amount of taxpayer support that goes into the school and the commitment we have made to the education of these students, surely there is a responsibility on the part of the government to see that the academic position of these students is looked after and that they be offered positions elsewhere, if it becomes clear their education cannot be continued at the University of Toronto. Would the Premier be prepared to protect the position of the students and guarantee that their education will be secured?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member puts forward a most reasonable point. I assume that is part of the president's proposal and will be discussed in the future. I cannot imagine him being so callous as to jeopardize the educational future of those young people who have committed themselves to that faculty in good faith. I would be most surprised if I heard anything to the contrary. I can ask the minister to discuss the plans of the president with him. The point is a sensitive one and we have no problem with it.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr. Barlow: My question is to the Treasurer. I am sure he is very much aware of the widespread concern and confusion in the food service industry today because of the recent changes to the Retail Sales Tax Act. The act exempts prepared food in various eating establishments where the total charge is less than $1, while taxing some foods which are considered to

be snack foods at the normal seven per cent rate. The Treasurer indicated in this House that this is only the first stage in his government's attempt to keep its election promise of a $4 exemption for restaurant meals.

If the Treasurer's next budget is going to include yet another change in the Retail Sales Tax Act as it pertains to restaurant meals, will he let the retailers and food service people of this province know this now–not in April or May when the budget comes out–so they will have time to be prepared for this expensive changeover?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I cannot do that. The honourable member will recall that the $1 exemption for prepared food from the retail sales tax was announced on October 24, and did not come into effect until January 1, so there were many months for preparation. The member is correct when he says that a number of retailers have experienced some confusion and difficulty with this, but I can assure him the officials in the Ministry of Revenue and the Treasury are offering every assistance.

The difficulty is mitigated to some extent by the thought that there may be an additional change in the next budget, but I am not prepared to predict that or announce it at this time. If there is a change, however, it will be implemented in the same way as the last one, going into effect only after debate and approval in this House.

Mr. Barlow: I realize this was announced in October and was not implemented until January 7. By that time, people were totally confused. They had to change over their cash registers.

Will the Treasurer consider some form of compensation to the retailers of this province for serving as his provincial tax collectors? Since they have to train and retrain their staff and change over their equipment, will the Treasurer offer some compensation to his tax collectors?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We already have a program of compensation for licensed vendors who collect the retail sales tax. While it is not enough, it is still at the highest rate of any jurisdiction in Canada.

VISITOR

Mr. Stevenson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to take a second to introduce Sharon Wilson, the Ontario County Dairy Princess, who is sitting in the gallery.

3:10 p.m.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. During the fall, I asked the minister for inspections in places such as Duracell, Allied Heat Treat, Mobile Material Handling Equipment, General Motors, Inco, Falconbridge and the ambulance services. Is the minister prepared to provide the inspection reports requested and the inspection reports prior to the ones requested?

Can the minister explain why there is always such a large number of orders issued when we ask for an inspection, and the previous inspections show virtually no orders at all?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I do not believe there is any statutory problem in sharing those reports with my friend. I know he would like to have a look at some of the reports and I will take a look at that.

With respect to the differences between the orders in the most recent visit, and then in the one that is taken after questions have been raised, I suggest to my honourable friend that one example or answer might be that these are simply snapshots taken at the time of the visit and matters can change. I have seen individual instances where matters obviously have changed. At the same time, I would be less than candid if I did not indicate to the House, as I have indicated to my own officials, my concern about the fact that revisits a short time after an inspection has been done, and after questions have been raised, appear to turn up an unusually large number of questions.

Mr. Martel: With all the violations the minister has found, such as the ones at Allied Heat Treat, how many does he intend to prosecute?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I do not have a list. I expect that in the short term the number of prosecutions will rise. In the longer term, I hope it will begin to decline as the orders with fixed dates–my friend knows we now have fixed dates–are complied with by the dates announced. I expect the prosecutions will begin to decline over time. I do not know whether prosecutions have begun in any of the cases raised by the member today. I am still waiting for final reports on some of them, if I remember the instances the member raised with me.

CHEMICAL LEAK

Mr. Haggerty: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment concerning the Niagara region. His ministry has released a report on the Ontario Hydro property in Niagara Falls showing evidence of cyanide contamination in the area. What action is his ministry taking as a result of the report?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: This is the Cyanamid property, or at least the Ontario Hydro property

where we have found cyanide in the soil. The member will recall that upon becoming Minister of the Environment, I instructed our ministry to address all the concerns found in the Niagara River Toxics Committee report. When one goes looking for problems, of course one finds problems.

We have scheduled meetings, I think for February 11, with Ontario Hydro and Cyanamid to bring to their attention our abatement program for this property. It concerns me greatly that we found this. I made a promise we would address all the concerns on our side of the river and that is what we are going to do.

PETITION

ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Mr. Shymko: This petition is addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads:

"Whereas the government has decided to merge the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the University of Toronto, we, the undersigned, protest this move by the Treasurer of Ontario and petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Ontario Legislature that the Treasurer rescind this ill-advised budget item and that he reaffirm OISE's mandate to serve public education in Ontario."

There are approximately 1,400 signatures on this petition.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I wish to inform the House that I have tabled the answers to questions 164 and 193 in Orders and Notices [See Hansard for Friday, February 7].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

Mr. Andrewes: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Yesterday during the debate on Bill 94, I used as an example of my concerns about accessibility, a situation that existed in the city of Thorold respecting a young child whose parents were not able to obtain proper nursing care.

I want to correct the record. I have learned subsequently that as a result of some changes and different interpretations of the guidelines, the ministry now is prepared to supply the services, and the situation has had a somewhat happier resolution.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am pleased to have the opportunity to present my views on Bill 94, the so-called Health Care Accessibility Act. I will start off by expressing my concern that Bill 94 will not improve access to health care but, indeed, may have the opposite effect. This bill has the potential to rip apart our excellent health care system by deliberately antagonizing and penalizing the heart of our system, the medical profession.

Without consultation, but with the support of its socialist friends, the Liberal government has declared war on the entire medical profession. If you think, Mr. Speaker, that the reference to a war is too strong, let me read into the record excerpts from a column by Greg Parent in the Toronto Sun of January 28, 1986. It is headed "Extra Billing War: Top Doc Refuses Offer of Peace."

"Despite a government plea for a truce, Ontario's ugly little war over extra billing by doctors won't end soon. Dr. Earl Myers, head of the Ontario Medical Association, said yesterday the battle-weary association won't stop fighting until legislation banning extra billing is put on hold."

Dr. Myers went on to say that if the bill was withdrawn, the OMA would be prepared to negotiate the health care scheme. That is all I want, for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), on behalf of the government, to negotiate in good faith with the medical profession to bring an end to this ugly little war before it affects the delivery of good-quality health care to the people of this great province.

There are stories in the press constantly that are not beneficial to the people in need of doctors' services. They are not beneficial to the doctors and are not beneficial to the public. I want to read a few examples. They include: "Doctors the Scapegoats"; "Extra Billing Ban Contravenes Charter MDs' Lawyer Says"; "New Law Won't Drive MDs Out: Peterson"; "Family Physicians Join the Fight Against Plan to Ban Extra Billing"; "Force Your Leaders to Let Us Ban Extra Billing, Elston Tells MDs"; "Elston Urges MDs to Defy Leaders on Billing Ban."

These are all part of a so-called war that is not beneficial to anyone in this province, and certainly not to the people who are in need of surgery. It cannot be too reassuring to them to be

concerned that there may be problems relating to their doctors or to the health care system.

It is appropriate at this time to place my own position on this issue on the record. I truly believe we have one of the finest health care systems in the world. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to serve on a select committee of this Legislature that reviewed our health services. The Ontario health care system came out as one of the best in this country and, indeed, was considered one of the best anywhere.

3:20 p.m.

Having said that, I also accept the fact that every health care system needs improvement. Ontario is no exception. Our system needs more co-operation and co-ordination, more funding, more beds, more specialists in some areas of the province, better mental health programs, more care for seniors, homemaker services and better cancer treatment facilities. It does not need confrontation or angry and disillusioned doctors who feel they are being conscripted into a state-controlled medical system with no personal freedom for either the doctors or their patients.

I also recognize the fact that there are problems and abuses in the matter of extra billing that need to be addressed. I hope the Ontario Medical Association and its membership will also accept the fact that there are problems relating to the extra billing principle and will negotiate in good faith with the government to resolve these problems.

It is my personal opinion, shared by many in my party, that all senior citizens should be exempt from extra billing. As well, all citizens who are on welfare, handicapped or in financial need should not be penalized by having to pay extra. I suggest that we could use the Ontario drug benefit plan as an example of the many people who should be exempt from extra billing for medical care.

It is my understanding that many anaesthetists extra bill. Perhaps it is time to consider that anaesthesia is part of the basic service provided by a hospital and that fees for such services could be adjusted in such a way as not to require any extra billing. I have been advised by many doctors that the liability insurance for anaesthetists is extremely costly. Since these doctors nearly always use hospital equipment and since the hospitals require insurance, surely the two could be combined at some saving to both.

Since I have been presenting my own personal views as a member of this Legislature on some of the matters that are confronting us as a result of Bill 94, I would like at this time to bring forward the concerns of many of the medical doctors in my riding. The best way to do that is simply to read into the record a couple of newspaper articles appearing in the Mount Forest Confederate on January 29, 1986.

The first is a news story entitled "Doctors Back Action Plan Against Banning Extra Billing":

"Doctors in Wellington and Dufferin counties are overwhelmingly supporting their provincial organization's call for mass resignations from medicare and a promise to defy any law banning extra billing.

"Dr. Robin Fishburn, president of the Wellington Medical Society, said the majority of doctors in the two counties are going along with the Ontario Medical Association's action plan.

"Most of the 100 doctors at a meeting last week–about half of those who practise in Wellington and Dufferin–signed pledge sheets and opting-out forms showing the OMA their support.

"Mount Forest doctors wrote a letter to the Confederate, which appears on the editorial page this week, outlining the issues as they see them. The doctors say they stand 'firmly united against proposed government legislation that would end extra billing.' None of the family doctors in Mount Forest practise extra billing.

"The legislation, introduced by Health minister Murray Elston in December, prohibits doctors from charging more than the rates set out under the Ontario health insurance plan. Anyone who charges more, or extra bills, would be liable to a fine of up to $10,000.

"The OMA decided last weekend to ask its 17,000 members to sign letters of resignation from the plan (although these would probably not become effective for three months) and to sign pledges that they will charge a nominal amount (ranging from a penny to a few dollars) above the OHIP rates if the legislation is passed.

"Those attending last week's meeting showed 'very, very strong support of the OMA stand against this act,' Dr. Fishburn said. 'We feel it is unwarranted, oppressive and the guys are overwhelmingly in favour of taking action.'"

The second is a letter to the editor that appeared in the same issue of the paper. It is from the family doctors in Mount Forest and it reads:

"No family doctor in Mount Forest practises 'extra billing.'

"Why, then, do these doctors stand firmly united against proposed government legislation that would end extra billing?

"Let us examine the issues as we see them. The Health Care Accessibility Act provides that 'The

Minister of Health may enter into agreement with...the Ontario Medical Association.' To put this in context, the minister may, but is no longer obliged, to discuss or negotiate the OHIP fee structure with the doctors. He may, under this legislation, also decide on doctors' fees on his own, without representation from the physicians.

"Would any other citizen care to casually hand over the decision of how much his or her service is worth to a government agency whose avowed aim is to cut the cost of the service he or she provides? And perhaps you do not know that this same government recently breached a contract with us, refusing to pay fees it had negotiated with the Ontario Medical Association two years previously. Can we put our trust in such a government in the future?" That is the question they ask, and it is a good question.

"Furthermore, 'a physician...shall not charge more or accept payment for more than the amount payable under... OHIP.'

"Although only six per cent of all doctor-patient encounters in Ontario currently involve extra billing—and this figure is decreasing yearly—we would like to retain the freedom to enter into a doctor-patient relationship if we wish. This principle becomes especially important if the government continues its irrational course of underfunding not just physicians' services, but necessary health care services of all kinds.

"We believe that the logical extension of the government's present course is that we will become severely regulated employees of a cheap and low-quality health care system, (the best the government can afford if nobody pays for it).

"And do not forget to look at the other side of this coin. Not only are we not allowed to charge more if we think the service warrants it, you as a patient cannot pay more. You too are denied the freedom to make a contract by this legislation with a physician of more skill or experience if you so wish. Let us take it one short and frightening step further. What happens when this shortsighted political plan takes us down the road of 'The National Health' system as it has in Britain and elsewhere. Then, when you tire of the frustrating wait of a year or more for specialist care (the situation in all of these free health care systems) will you have the choice of purchasing private insurance or paying an independent physician? No! You have lost your rights to negotiate for better health care too.

"These are the very real dangers we see lurking behind the smoke screen of 'extra billing' in this proposed act.

"Yet there is more! What of the crime of seeking your own fee commensurate with your skills and experience? How many of you are paid based on merit, skill or experience? Common sense tells us that in an economically free society a doctor who charges an exorbitant fee would soon be forced to lower the fee or be short on patients. Yet this piece of legislation provides a maximum fine of $10,000 per 'offence'. It is disgraceful that our maximum fine for impaired driving is $2,000; does the government honestly feel that an opted-out doctor is a greater menace than a drunk driver?

"Enough of doctors and principles. What about the hard cash? What about extra billing?

"We recognize that a few physicians have been insensitive about billing over and above OHIP rates to patients who cannot really afford to pay. The majority of doctors who charge extras have discussed this matter frankly with their patients and offered other alternatives if the ability to pay is lacking. That is to say either the service was provided at a lower or no fee or a referral was made to an opted-in physician. If you were not treated 'fairly' by an opted-out of OHIP physician or surgeon, you should break off your contract with them and report the problem to the College of Physicians and Surgeons as well as your family physician so that the problem can be rectified.

3:30 p.m.

"We, as physicians, have grave concerns about the quality of future care in Ontario if the Health Care Accessibility Act is passed.

"We know we have your trust and we solicit your support as, through our professional association, we work to let the government know that its Bill 94 is a dishonest and unjust piece of legislation. Be assured that during this difficult confrontation you, our patients, will continue to receive uninterrupted care of the quality you have come to expect."

This letter was sent to the people of Mount Forest and area through the local newspaper. It is signed by S. J. Wetmore, MD; T. N. Wilson, MD; R. D. Fletcher, MD; H. M. Perrin, MD; L. Pede, MD; S. Goodall, MD; K. S. Babey, MD.

These seven doctors have not opted out and are not charging extra. They are enrolled in the present system and are extremely happy with the system as it is today but they will not be if Bill 94 is passed.

Last week, I met with these seven doctors who practise medicine in my home town of Mount Forest, and I was very disturbed at their very

deep concern about the ramifications flowing from Bill 94.

Please note, as I mentioned, that not one of these seven doctors is opted out, and none had any intention of extra billing any patient at any time. I, personally, have never had a single complaint about any of these doctors.

They were totally satisfied with the status quo and will not be financially affected by any changes in the legislation, but they are deeply concerned that they, as professionals, are losing their freedom of choice and will be treated as criminals by the proposed Bill 94.

They are incensed by the $10,000 fine for charging $10 over the fee schedule as set out by the Minister of Health. Drunk drivers receive only a $2,000 fine, and doctors ask the question: "Are opted out physicians five times as detrimental to society as drunk drivers?" I think not.

They fear the concept of every doctor and everything in the health field being under direct control and scrutiny of a politician, even if he is Minister of Health. They are angry that the health care system in Ontario will fall into the same mess that now exists in Britain.

Two of the doctors came from England, and they had first-hand reports to relate about the horror stories in that socialistic medical system.

The doctors expressed dismay that Bill 94 provides that the Minister of Health may enter into an agreement with associations representing physicians, dentists and optometrists to provide methods of negotiating and determining the amounts payable under the Ontario health insurance plan. Does that mean the minister may not as well. Should "may" not be "must"?

I received a phone call at noon today from a doctor in Orangeville who expressed his deep concern about subsection 3(3), which says pretty well the same thing:

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make a regulation providing that the minister may enter into an agreement under subsection (1) with a specified person or organization other than an association mentioned in subsection (2)."

He was quite disturbed by that clause. He was also incensed with the $10,000 fine. He said he was opted out for four or five years but is back in the system now and had no intention of leaving it. He also said that he serves on many committees as a volunteer but that if this bill goes through, he will no longer provide his services to those committees.

Mr. McKessock: How much money did he lose?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am not sure, but I think he was from Melancthon.

I will emphasize, as I mentioned, that these doctors have not opted out and they do not extra bill, but they are very discouraged by this proposed piece of legislation. Their concern, and that of many doctors in this province, can be best summed up by a letter to the editor in many papers by Dr. Calvin Gutkin. I quote:

"Concern is for Patients and Future of the Health Care System:

"Dear Editor:

"The concern expressed by most of Ontario's 7,500 family doctors who oppose the Peterson government's proposed Health Care Accessibility Act deserves special attention. Unlike many of our physician colleagues, most family doctors (greater than 95 per cent) are not opted out and do not extra bill. Our concern is for our patients and the future of our health care system, and our fight is for the freedom of those of us living and practising medicine in a country which once took pride in protecting the rights and respecting the integrity of individuals such as ourselves.

"Over the past decade, the costs involved in maintaining a quality health care system have escalated and the public purse has been stretched beyond its capacity to afford the resources required. Rather than admitting their failure to come to grips with this scenario, governments have found it politically expedient to create the myth that paying doctors is the problem.

"As family doctors whose role each day is to act as advocates on behalf of those for whom we care, we are asking our elected officials to review the facts and address the real issues of concern to our patients. We applaud any discussion which honestly addresses the issue of accessibility, but surely when we speak of better access, we must be speaking about issues such as improving the facilities and resources available to care for the elderly, the disabled, the abused and the underprivileged; surely we must be referring to the need for increased community services, improved home care programs and more appropriate utilization of our hospitals for both inpatient and outpatient care. Surely we must recognize that it is in areas such as these that the real problems with accessibility to health care exist.

"For most family physicians, passage of the Peterson government's health bill will have little or no impact upon our income, but will have major impact upon our freedom and our rights. For most of our patients, passage of this act will make little or no difference with respect to their access to doctors, but it will also do nothing with

respect to improving their access to other vital health care needs.

"The real problem, facing not only doctors but all Canadians, is not extra billing. It is the ongoing trend towards underfunding and the resultant deterioration of our health care system. The real dilemma facing the population of Ontario today is not related simply to accessibility to health care–it is rather more significantly the question of accessibility to political wisdom.

"Calvin Gutkin, President, Ontario Chapter, College of Family Physicians of Canada."

I hasten to point out that while I have emphasized the concerns of many in the medical profession, I have no intention of fighting the battles of the Ontario Medical Association. They are quite capable of fighting their own.

"Tonight, however, I am defending the people of Ontario from the threat of a weakening of the health care system. I am arguing a people point of view because I believe in their good health and their right to pursue a creative lifestyle of their own choice with vigour and energy. I believe in their health and wellbeing.

"I am also arguing for democracy and freedom. I am arguing that it is not advisable for the state in peacetime to conscript physicians or any other group in society and compromise their democratic freedoms and circumstances, other than in a temporary state emergency.

"The apparent permanent civil conscription of virtually an entire profession in peacetime is a serious and disturbing matter. I feel conscience-bound to oppose it. I believe such a step to be unwise and I would argue that point just as vigorously for any other group as I would argue it for physicians. This bill proposes to compromise the right of two citizens to negotiate a simple contract with each other. I cannot favour that."

3:40 p.m.

The last three paragraphs are direct quotes from Hansard, January 28, from the comments made by the Liberal member for Humber. I happen to agree totally with these remarks and endorse them as my own. The Liberal member has the right to defend the people of Ontario from an excessive and ill-advised piece of legislation. I know all members of this assembly will agree that the Conservative members have that same right.

Speaking of rightness, Thomas Henry Huxley said, "It is not who is right, but what is right that is of importance."

On this issue most people, when asked whether extra billing should be outlawed, respond in the affirmative. That is true even in my riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel.

I would like to refer to two questionnaires, one from the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), who represents a small-city urban riding, and one from my own riding, which is mainly a rural riding with several small towns. Both questionnaires had very similar responses.

The questionnaire from the member for Cambridge asked the question, "Should the province's doctors be allowed to bill beyond the OHIP fee schedule?" In reply, 27.9 per cent said yes; 64.8 per cent said no; and 7.2 per cent were undecided. It went on to ask, "Is Ontario's existing health care system meeting your needs?" In reply, 85.8 per cent said yes; 10.8 per cent said no; and 3.4 per cent were undecided.

My results were very similar. To the question, "Is Ontario's existing health care system meeting your needs?" I had a return of 1,525, which is excellent. The reply came back with 1,313, or 86 per cent, saying the system was satisfactory. The member for Cambridge had 85.8 per cent; so it was practically identical. I had 138, or 10 per cent, say no, it was not and 74, or four per cent, were undecided. The two responses were nearly exactly the same.

To the question, "Should the province's doctors be allowed to bill beyond the OHIP schedule?" 313, or 20 per cent, said yes; 1,106, or 72 per cent, said no; and 112, or eight per cent, were undecided. Again, it was very similar. They are a small urban riding and a rural riding and the responses were practically identical.

We should take that a step further. Of the respondents, 85 per cent are satisfied with the health care system as it is now. Since the health care system is based on the service of our physicians, what will happen to the system if this government does not treat our physicians with the respect and understanding they deserve? I do not want to imply that the Ontario Medical Association is totally right and the government totally wrong, but surely there must be room for reasonable compromise.

To carry the polling process or questionnaire forward, I would like to refer to a recent poll by the government asking whether there were any aspects of the health care system in Ontario that needed to be changed or given special attention.

Of the replies, 41 per cent said no changes were needed and seven per cent said they would ban extra billing; 52 per cent named such things such as the need for more hospital beds, better preventive medicine and more extensive pollution controls. Only seven per cent felt that extra

billing was the most urgent problem facing our health care system.

If one asks people, as I did, "Should the province's doctors be allowed to bill beyond the OHIP schedule?" three out of four will say they should not be allowed to extra bill. Would that same 75 per cent favour banning extra billing if it meant a decline in the quality of our health care system? The answer to that is given by the 85 per cent who say they feel the system is excellent or quite satisfactory.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough my position and that of my party to defend the excellent health care system of this province. We must continue to do what is right, not what is popular. The Liberals and New Democratic Party always accused the Tories of governing by poll; yet we never bowed to the polls on this issue, while the new alliance has done that very thing.

Mr. Shymko: Catholic school funding is one example.

Mr. Martel: Put it in your ear, Yuri. You know who announced it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member for High Park-Swansea and the member for Sudbury East please let the member speak?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Ontarians hate controversy. Unfortunately, that is what the Liberal government and its NDP cohorts have given us with their high-handed, ill-thought-out, controversial legislation.

The Liberals tell us this move will improve access to the health care system, but they do not tell us that when a similar system was imposed in Quebec, more than 200 of the top specialists left the province within a few short months. Many of them came to Ontario. Where will they go now? Do the Premier or the Liberals give a damn?

I would like to quote from the Toronto Star of January 30, 1986: "Premier Says Extra Bill Ban Will Drive Out 'Odd Few' MDs." The article by Alan Christie goes on to say:

"Premier David Peterson has admitted he expects 'an odd few' doctors to leave Ontario when his government bans extra billing...'I hope they (doctors) don't leave,' Peterson told reporters yesterday before a cabinet meeting. But he added ' I don't think it is a major problem' because Ontario already has more than enough doctors."

Surely our Premier is not suggesting we have a surplus of doctors and it might not be too bad if some of them go elsewhere? Is that what he is suggesting? Surely not. If it is the Premier's feeling that Ontario has too many doctors, then why is he so concerned about the small percentage of doctors who have opted out of OHIP? Or is the government using Bill 94 as a means of getting rid of some of the perceived surplus of doctors? Surely not.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate my deep concern that Bill 94 will endanger the excellent health care system we have developed over the decades in Ontario. I strongly urge the government to delay action on this bill until it has the opportunity to meet with the medical profession, without stated preconditions, to develop and implement a program to deal with all the health care issues, including extra billing, and to work together in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill that will benefit all the citizens of this great province.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: I have not heard so much claptrap since the 1969 debate when we brought the–

Mr. Sheppard: We are going to hear a lot more now.

Mr. Martel: I was here when medicare was introduced and Robarts called it a machiavellian scheme. The Tories have never been very sympathetic about OHIP.

Mr. Shymko: The NDP supported it then.

Mr. Martel: No, we voted against the bill. My friend is wrong. He should once and a while check Hansard so he knows what he is talking about when he comes here. We voted against the bill.

One of the reasons we voted against it then was that it did not eliminate premiums. We tried to get the government not to allow premiums. As members know, premiums are collected in only three provinces now, Ontario being one of them. Is that not strange?

Mr. Sheppard: Is the member willing to pay a 10 per cent sales tax?

Mr. Martel: They do not have a 10 per cent sales tax in Saskatchewan, Manitoba or British Columbia.

Mr. Sheppard: We are going to have it here in Ontario because of the Liberal government.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Martel: The member can say that, but it is not the case. We opposed the bill then. It is strange that doctors are the only free enterprisers I know who define what their rate is going to be and are then paid out of the public purse. That is not a bad way of running a shop, really, if one can set one's fee schedule and then say to the

province, "Pay whatever we want to bill even though we have an agreement."

When we debated the bill the first time around, the doctors told us–and members might want to check this out–they were losing between 20 and 30 per cent of their income because people were not paying their bills. Medicare was a bonanza for them because they collected on every person they billed. Take that into consideration. Unlike any other profession–

Mr. Shymko: A big bonanza now.

Mr. Martel: The member for High Park-Swansea should check it out to see whether at that time the doctors did not argue that they were losing 20 to 30 per cent of their income because people failed to pay their bills. They now collect everything.

I used to be in a profession. When I taught school, I signed an agreement. Humble as I am, I was a crackerjack teacher. Humble as I am, I was an A-rated principal. I could not say to the board, "Look, my friends, you have to pay me $10,000 more than the rest of the principals." My association had negotiated a salary, and I did not have the privilege of saying, "Pay me more."

I cannot understand why doctors think they can belong to a profession and have the privilege of saying, "Here is our agreed fee schedule, but if I so desire, I can charge more." What kind of nonsense are the Tories talking about?

Mr. Shymko: Freedom of choice for every patient in this province.

Mr. Martel: What does the member mean by freedom of choice? They have choice under this bill.

Mr. Shymko: The freedom of self-governing professions.

Mr. Martel: But they are paid out of the public purse. The member forgot that.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: In fact, I am glad my friend put his foot in his mouth. I could not charge any extra. I could not say to the board, "You have to pay me more," nor could the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) nor could any member who is a teacher in his profession say: "I am so good. Pay me over and above what the agreement we have arrived at says."

Mr. Shymko: When the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) sends his kids for some private tutoring, does he regulate the fees?

Mr. Martel: Oh, wait a moment. My friends want it both ways.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for High Park-Swansea is interrupting the speaker. Would the member for Sudbury East please continue to address the chair and there will be no interruptions.

Mr. Martel: Thank you for your help, Mr. Speaker.

If I may just pick up where I left off before I was so rudely interrupted, I was not allowed to charge extra. I find it strange that five per cent of the doctors have determined they can bill over and above what has been agreed to as the OMA fee schedule. By what divine right are they allowed to do this?

Mr. Pierce: One has the right not to accept their services if one does not want to pay.

Mr. Martel: But what is a contract? What is it really worth?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Who else can set his fee schedule and then say, "Pay for it now out of the public purse, and we will go over and above what has been agreed"? That is what the member is saying to me.

The bill is rather simple. Humble me, I am really amazed. An anaesthetist in Sudbury said to me, "After I reach a certain point, I make 25 cents on the dollar." He says he has now cut back his practice and does not work as hard because he makes so little after he reaches a certain income. In a moment, I am going to come to what all this leads to. He makes 25 cents on the dollar. The government can pay him more if it wants, but he is going to get less and less clear pay. The point is, how can anyone be part of an agreement, reach an agreement and then say, "I want to bill extra"?

The bill is simple. It says that one can either be in or out of medicare, but one can charge only one price. I have heard all the nonsense about interference from government. I taught in a good school system; our educational system is pretty good. Where is the interference with me as a teacher because my salary is a salary that is agreed to? Where am I not at liberty to do my job as a teacher? I have said to the doctors in my area: "Tell me where you see the interference in doctor-patient relationships. All we are saying is you can be in OHIP or you can be out, but you can charge only one fee."

What interference are they talking about? How are we infringing on the doctor-patient relationship by this move? I think 95 per cent of the profession supports the other five per cent in this, and I sometimes wonder what they are thinking

about because it is silly. I do not think there is a politician in this Legislature who would tolerate interference in the doctor-patient relationship. No one in this House is going to tolerate any interference whatsoever. That is the biggest red herring that has ever been dragged across the stage that I know of.

Perhaps someone from the Tories can elucidate this for me. When one is either in or out of OHIP–it does not matter–and one can charge only one fee, how does that interfere with the doctor-patient relationship? Somebody should tell me how that interferes with what goes on between the doctor and his patient. It is absolute insanity. I have never heard such nonsense in my entire career.

The stuff I have heard from the Tories is not even rational. Some of the things I listened to last week boggle the imagination. I do not know who their scriptwriters or ghost writers are, but they do not have much credibility when they run some of these things across the platform.

Mr. Sheppard: Come on. The member should not judge everybody over here by the way he does it himself.

Mr. Martel: Perhaps the member for Northumberland can tell me how there is interference. The big cry is, "We will not be able to practise medicine the way we want." That is baloney. I am sure all of us have said to doctors: "If there is any interference from the politicians or anybody trying to tell you how to operate your practice, get in touch with us. Let us know because we will not tolerate it." What is really at stake is the money.

Mr. Sheppard: Money has nothing to do with it.

4 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Baloney. What is it then? They cannot charge more. What and where is the interference? Perhaps someone will demonstrate that for me.

Having spent some time in hospital, I think doctors work bloody hard. Our whole system is backwards. We will pay $600,000 or $700,000 a year to an athlete to skate up and down the ice and shoot a puck. We will pay professional baseball players $1 million a year to entertain people for 80 or 100 games. We will do the same for actors and rock stars, paying tremendous amounts of money. We have some problem with the doctors, but society can find all kinds of money to pay an athlete $1 million for a year's service. There is something wrong in our system.

My party has fought this battle for as many years as I have been here. We are not interested in the final amount the doctor makes, but that he charges the same as everybody else. If he wants to wear himself to death with a turnstile operation, that is his problem. I wish doctors would not do it. I have suggested to doctors in my area, and I hope somebody is saying–

Mr. Pierce: Is the member suggesting that they go home at four o'clock at night?

Mr. Martel: No, they do not. I am saying maybe they should. There should be options for doctors in this province to take a different pay system if they want to. I know doctors who have quit their practice and gone to work for companies because they want some kind of a home life. They work for a salary–

Mr. Pierce: It is not because of a lack of patients.

Mr. Martel: That is right. It is because they have chosen to have a different quality of life where they use the skills they have, serve their patients well and have time for their families. There should be options in this province which would allow the doctor, if he wants to, to become part of a scheme which would provide him with a pension plan. One of the reasons they work hard and have a turnstile operation is that they have to put every cent away themselves for when they retire.

I said to the doctors: "Why do you not look at your fee schedule? Instead of asking for an increase in pay, why do you not try to negotiate a package of benefits to include drug coverage, a vacation and a pension scheme so you can get off the treadmill?" Do you know what they said, Mr. Speaker? I spoke to a number of doctors in my area and a number of specialists in Toronto who said, "That is what we need."

We have people such as Dr. Moran who represented the doctors a few years ago. He came to the New Democratic Party and his first statement was: "I do not believe in medicare and I do not support it. I am opted out." To make that kind of an introduction is similar to waving a red flag in front of a bull. The Ministry of Health should consider, in conjunction with the doctors, assisting them to formulate a package including a pension, drug benefits, a vacation and perhaps some sensible hours. That should be an option.

I suspect a lot more doctors would find that very attractive, specialists included. They would have to have a good salary. I know railroaders in my home town who make $55,000 a year running a locomotive. I know miners who make $45,000 a year. We are talking about highly skilled people

who spend long hours and who are in this system of almost a turnstile operation because they have to put money away for all the years they will be retired.

They do not have a drug benefit plan. They can be subject to illness and they should have a plan to protect them, just as we do here. That is worth far more money to us than some of the income we make.

Somebody might tell them that, because I have spoken to a dozen doctors in the past two weeks and they think that is a great idea. They would like that. I suspect a lot of doctors would opt for it and that would break down this turnstile operation. At least it should be available for those who want it. The rest who want to run around like mad all night and eventually end up earning 25 cents on the dollar as take-home pay would–

Mr. Pierce: A miner does the same thing. If he works on a bonus and works long and hard hours, he gets extra money and makes 25 cents on the dollar. What is the difference?

Mr. Martel: The point I am making is he at least has a pension scheme and vacation time.

Mr. Pierce: The more he puts out, the more money he makes.

Mr. Martel: Yes, most people do. We are not objecting to that. We are saying we do not object if he wants to work that way, but he cannot charge extra as opposed to his–

Mr. Pierce: The doctor is not like a miner who can charge time and a half or double time or bonus time.

Mr. Martel: No, they all get the same. When they work overtime, one does not make any more per hour than another.

Mr. Pierce: It is based on their production. They make more money.

Mr. Martel: I am not stopping them from producing. I am not stopping them from the number of hours they work.

Mr. Pierce: They get a premium for the same production only after hours.

Mr. Martel: That is right, but they all get the same rate, do they not?

Mr. Pierce: But a premium rate.

Mr. Martel: The number of patients a doctor sees increases the value of the take-home pay.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: The member cannot tell me that if he and another guy are working underground, he will get $1 more per hour than his co-worker who is doing exactly the same work, putting in the same number of hours. Now, if he wanted to stay extra hours–

Mr. Pierce: The bonus is on production, not on hours.

Mr. Martel: I understand it is on production, but if one puts out the same amount of production, one still takes home the same amount of pay, whereas a small group of doctors have decided they not only want the same amount as the guys who work the same number of hours as them, but they also want to charge extra for their services. That is all we are arguing about.

The rest is gobbledegook that has come out of the member's party. All we are talking about is people charging the same rate. The member can make all the arguments he wants, but it comes down to one point and one point only. Five per cent of the doctors who bill extra have decided that over and above the fee schedule that has been arrived at they want to charge more. Interestingly enough, most of them are specialists who take the highest share of OHIP now in terms of dollars.

I am saying, "Wait a minute, you cannot do that." Despite all the gobbledegook–a doctor is either in or out, that is fine–in the final analysis, all we are interested in is that they all charge the same rate, whatever the fee schedule is for the specialist, anaesthetist, etc. All the rest of the stuff is nonsense.

If the government wants to be positive, it might look at the possibility of saying to the doctors: "We are going to give you a couple of options. You can continue this turnstile operation if you want, you can put yourself into an early grave if you want; or you might take a look at a scheme that includes a different form of pay. It might be fee-for-service but no extra billing. We will help you to establish, for those who want it, a pension scheme so you do not have to run like mad to accumulate enough money to be put away for when you retire, or if you should take sick at 45, you have something to cover you,"–as we would want, and as we have.

I have spoken to a dozen doctors in the last two weeks. They like that idea, because they reach a point with respect to income where they take so little home of what they are getting paid that it is down to 25 cents on the dollar. I throw this out as a suggestion, a possibility of us doing something like that. None of us in this party is going to back down against extra billing. We brought the first petition in here in 1978 or 1979 with about 350,000 names opposing extra billing.

4:10 p.m.

Last week, a couple who are pensioners came in to see me. The wife has to get a treatment every

four months. In the OHIP fee schedule, it costs $180. The specialist in Sudbury is charging $245 every four months. He charges 25 per cent more than the fee schedule. There is something wrong with that. We all work here and we work out there. We do not set our own fee schedules and then, once we reach an agreement, say, "I want to be paid over and above that."

I do not know whether the farmers do that. I do not think so. They get a flat rate for their beef, whatever that rate is.

Mr. McLean: It changes every day.

Mr. Lane: It is too bad it is not a flat rate.

Mr. Martel: Yes. They get the same and they cannot say: "I want $200 more for my cattle. This bull is such a good bull, I am going to charge an extra $200 for this one."

Mr. Pierce: That is the bull we are getting now.

Mr. Breaugh: Do not look at me and talk about the price of bull.

Mr. Martel: I told the member that for a reason.

Mr. Pierce: We do not have to buy the cow if the bull is free, and that is no bull.

Mr. Martel: As I say, I have heard a great deal of nonsense about what this bill does, and I defy a Tory to tell me how we are going to interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. I have suggested to the doctors in my area that when they come across somebody playing games and interfering with the way they run their practices, they should let me know because there is not a member of this House who would tolerate that sort of interference.

This bill really is a very simple one in that, if one is in or out, one charges the same fee. I suggest to the Tories their arguments have been nonsense. They are standing in front of a moving train. They will have their opportunity to vote on this in a standing fashion. It will not be like the drug bill. They will have the opportunity to stand, and when they know the majority of the public is against them, they might see the error of their way.

I simply remind my Tory friends, though, they did not want medicare in the first place. Robarts called it a machiavellian scheme. There was a great fight, and he could not have obtained his funding back from Ottawa if he had not gone in, so he accepted this machiavellian scheme. The Tories never tried to perfect it. They left in premiums and extra billing. We are slowly eradicating a couple of the flaws, but my friends want to stand in front of the train and make all kinds of silly allegations that do not hold water.

We do it for five per cent of the doctors and, at the same time, we are losing about $50 million from Ottawa. As I said, I do not know any other profession in which one sets one's own fee and then collects from the public purse, as one does with this one. With this free-enterprise system one sets one's fee schedule and says, "Pay," and gets it out of the public purse. In closing, I simply remind the Tories that when we brought in medicare, doctors told us they had been losing 20 per cent to 30 per cent of their income because patients failed to pay up. I was here when the legislation came through, and that was one of the great benefits for doctors–they collected all their money. They have done not too bad.

I think we can improve it by giving them a couple of options. I suspect if one were to put out a questionnaire to the doctors saying, "Would you like to have the government help you develop a vacation schedule, a pension scheme in particular"–which most of them desperately want–"and some sensible hours?" they would come clamouring to get that done. I offer that as a suggestion to the government. As I take my seat, I tell the Tories they are standing in front of a moving train. They should get off the track or they will be run over because they are going to lose on this one.

Mr. Sheppard: I am pleased to participate in this debate on the Health Care Accessibility Act as I feel this is a very important issue to all the people in our province. I do not necessarily agree with the last speaker who said that only the Tories are going to suffer. I just want to put on the record that yesterday I went to Dr. Percy Vivian's funeral. He was the Minister of Health in George Drew's cabinet back in the early 1940s and was the only professional in the House at that time. He was responsible for bringing county health units to Ontario and the pioneer who brought medical care to Ontario. I wanted to get that on the record because I was at his funeral yesterday in Port Hope. He was the last living member of the Drew cabinet from the early 1940s.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) introduced this bill in the Legislature on December 19, 1985, providing for a complete ban on extra billing for all insured physicians' services, insured dentistry services performed in hospitals and all insured optometry services, under the pretext of preserving the principles of universality and accessibility in the Ontario health care system.

I use the phrase "under the pretext" because accessibility is not the real issue. Everyone has seen the present figures which indicate approximately five per cent of physicians opt out of OHIP. It is a declining percentage from the 1979 figure of 18 per cent.

Out of this present figure of five per cent, approximately 77 per cent of these opted-out doctors practice in Ontario's seven major centres, while the other 23 per cent are located in smaller, rural communities.

In my riding of Northumberland, very few doctors chose to opt out. Until the bill was introduced, I do not think any of the doctors in Northumberland opted out.

A highly respected physician from Campbellford wrote: "I have always been opted-in, not because I believe OHIP fees were fair, but rather because the population I served was such that a billing practice other than this would be too stressful for my patients. Your proposed Health Care Accessibility Act does nothing to ensure accessibility. I have never had a problem of getting an opted-out specialist to see one of my patients on an OHIP fee basis. However, I have had continuing problems getting patients to have investigative procedures done within a reasonable length of time, getting operating room time for my patients, and so on."

The Ontario Medical Association strongly agrees that to opt-in the profession will not make the services of physicians more accessible.

Quite honestly, I cannot see how medical attention could be more accessible. When people are sick, they can call their doctor's office to arrange an appointment, usually within a few days if not for the same day. Should the illness require immediate attention on a weekend or evening, the person just has to go to any emergency department at the nearest hospital and be assured of seeing a doctor without having to wait until the next business day.

On January 14, the Minister of Health stated in the Legislature: "We heard from a variety of people, from local physicians' associations, nurses, hospitals, senior citizens' groups, health care organizations and private citizens. The intention to ban extra billing had the solid support of the great majority of the participants."

I do not know where the ministry fished out these apparent supporters because every doctor I have spoken to disagrees with the minister.

By introducing this bill, the Minister of Health is obviously not aware of the depth of anger he has stirred amongst the physicians in my riding, not to mention numerous doctors across Ontario.

4:20 p.m.

Our present health care system is one of the best in North America. Although it would be unwise to assume that all 88 per cent of doctors now in OHIP are happy with the system, it seems true the majority of doctors are quite comfortable operating within the current fee schedule.

This system was built carefully over decades of listening and careful negotiation in co-operation with individual professionals. The medical profession as it stands, is self-governing, works well and efficiently. I could not agree more with my colleague, the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) that nothing will be accomplished unless members of the medical profession are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Surely no one can dismiss the fact that doctors provide a basic human need requiring tremendous skill, not to mention sacrifice, devotion and extreme concentration at all times.

As I mentioned earlier, the issue in question is not really accessibility. The real issue is a matter of government control versus professional freedom and freedom of choice. We all have to recognize that this province has a health care system envied by many jurisdictions. We must also remember that the professionals in the health care system are the primary deliverers of quality, professional care.

In order to improve the quality of health care in Ontario, we need the co-operation of these professionals. We must listen to their ideas, work with them and work with the private doctors. To shut off negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association is certainly inviting chaos. Angry, frustrated and alienated doctors cannot perform in their usual caring manner.

If a ceiling has to be placed on a doctor's right to charge what he feels is appropriate for his services, why should he work evenings to be on call in case of emergencies? Why should a doctor volunteer his time for committee work in board hearings if we are going to cut him off? Why should a doctor not merit a higher fee than what OHIP will reimburse for his specialty, be he a brain surgeon, cancer specialist or a dermatologist? Services that are performed free of charge will stop.

I had a phone call this morning from a patient who happened to phone her doctor. She wanted to know if her boy could go back to school after having measles. He said: "I am going to charge you for this call, because I am going to charge you for every call that is made to this office. Before I did not, but now I will."

They talk about $50 million. It could cost us more than $50 million if every doctor in Ontario charges for every phone call patients make to their doctor. Services performed free of charge will stop. As a result, doctors will be charging OHIP for every single service provided. This problem will cost the government more money than the proposed $50 million a year saving.

It is inevitable that our present health care system will deteriorate in quality, as it did in British Columbia and in Great Britain, if self-governing professions are taken over. As members of the Legislature are aware, when Britain made doctors state workers, their system crumbled and eventually illegal bribes were used for faster medical attention. It is also not uncommon in Britain to wait three to four years for a single operation, due to the underfunded system.

When our doctors become state employees, all we have to look forward to is assembly line medical care.

Dr. Michael Morris who now practises in Warkworth, came to Canada from England in order to escape the health care system there. Canada was known, even overseas, to have an excellent health care system. Dr. Morris now feels extremely angry and threatened by this proposed legislation. He predicts the outcome will be disastrous, as he witnessed in England, if extra billing is banned in Ontario.

With the passage of this bill we are inviting inaccessibility because patients will be unable to obtain appropriate care. Some of our specialists will decide to move out of Ontario, leaving us without accessibility. Many others will choose not to practise, thus stoking the fire of inaccessibility once more, especially in our rural northern communities such as Uxbridge, as outlined by my party's Health critic. Opting out will ensure that our first-rate specialists stay in Ontario.

There has to be a common goal among this government, the members of the Legislature and Ontario professionals. That goal should be to create the best possible health care system with universally accessible, affordable care that would be available to all residents. In order to achieve that goal, we must co-operate and negotiate as a single entity.

In general, the move to ban extra billing is very shortsighted. It is just a political move to gain brownie points with the public. I must agree with the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) that the public perception out there is in favour of the patient. However, the doctors are talking to their patients every day, telling them how they feel, and a lot of our senior citizens are agreeing with the doctors, as they did in 1982 when this came up before.

I am pointing out the way doctors in the great riding of Northumberland are feeling without taking into consideration what the long-term implications may mean or what this could do to our present health care system.

Is this the beginning of a Liberal government trend, with the prompting of the New Democratic Party, to strip all our professionals of their democratic right to choose their own method of billing? No other professional group has its wages set by one employer, the Liberal government of Ontario. What is truly needed to improve our health care system is beds, equipment and adequate hospital funding, certainly not the stripping of professional freedoms.

The member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) certainly does not agree with the bill that the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) introduced in December.

Mr. Haggerty: How is the member voting on this bill?

Mr. Sheppard: The member should wait and see. How can I vote against my doctors when they are coming out with the truth? How is that member going to vote? The member for Humber is going to vote against the bill. Did the member opposite not hear him in the House the other night?

I have a letter from a doctor in Havelock, and I want to read a couple of extracts:

"Dear Sir:

"I have just received a copy of Health Care Accessibility Act, 1985, and I feel that I must write to express my outrage at this assault on my professional freedom. This is not a Health Care Accessibility Act but a blatant attempt to gain control of the medical profession. If you really wished to improve accessibility, you would stop rationing diagnostic technology, increase the number of chronic and nursing home beds, increase funding for the home care program and supply adequate operating room facilities to handle the backlog of cases.

"This could be accomplished by reallocating the large sum of funds spent on the health care bureaucracy in Queen's Park and reducing the huge sum Ontario hospitals spend on administration.

4:30 p.m.

"Contrary to your statement that this will save $50 million a year, I can assure you that it will probably cost an additional $50 million a year. This is due to the fact that I will expect to be paid

for all my previous unpaid-for committee work (i.e. hospital, community, district and provincial) that I am required to perform. Also, I expect to be paid for my unpaid on-call time. I wish to draw to your attention that I am an opted-in physician and always have been. I will fight this legislation to the very end, especially during the upcoming election campaign this spring."

That was from Dr. Mendum in Havelock.

I also have a letter from Dr. Stephens and I want to quote some comments from it:

"As a member of the medical staff of Campbellford Memorial Hospital and as a family physician practising in this community, I feel it important that your readers be made aware of another side of the controvery surrounding the provincial government's announced intention to ban extra billing by doctors.

"It is ironic that the provincial Liberals are caught in a trap set for them by their federal counterparts. In a futile attempt to salvage their rapidly declining popularity, the federal Liberals pushed through the Canada Health Act just prior to the last election. Under that act, provinces which allowed physicians to bill patients at rates above the provincially approved rate (in Ontario, OHIP's fee schedule), would have an amount equal to the total billings above the provincial schedule deducted from federal transfer payments to the province. The act was heralded as a defence of the medicare system.

"Both the federal Liberals and now their provincial counterparts have based their arguments on two semantically contrived nonissues. The first of these is accessibility. The Liberals would have us believe that in some ways patients are denied access to the health care system by the fact that 12 per cent of the province's doctors are opted out. This is just plain silly. I have been practising medicine in this province for more than 10 years and I have never once had a patient denied access to good health care on this basis. They have been denied proper care when beds were not available in hospitals due to overcrowding or when hospitalization was prolonged due to lack of sufficient nursing home beds. I can't imagine any branch of medicare in which all practitioners are opted out and so greedy and cruel that they would deny access to a needy patient on the basis of ability to pay. Accessibility is a nonissue.

"The second nonissue is the term 'extra billing' itself. For reasons which are not immediately obvious to me, the media has chosen to accept the OHIP fee schedule as the standard. No other profession in this province which has resisted the urge to unionize has its fees unilaterally set by government. The medical profession, like other professions, establishes fee guidelines for its members. These guidelines are not binding but are considered fair value for services rendered. OHIP currently pays about 70 per cent of the Ontario Medical Association fee schedule. Opted-out physicians who charge the OMA rate are not extra billing–opted-in physicians (those of us in the 82 per cent majority) are underbilling when they accept OHIP rates as full payment. Extra billing as a term should be discarded and the concept recognized for what it is–an invention of the politicians used by them to divert our attention from the real problems in the health care system which are much more difficult to solve and for which there is no ready scapegoat.

"The vast majority of doctors in this province are very upset by the government's proposal. Let's consider why. The Liberals and their NDP partners–a case, I think, of the myopic being prodded by the blind–would have the public believe it is because we are all greedy and self-serving. Strangely the public seems ready to accept this even though they would all undoubtedly say their own particular physicians were the exception to the rule.

"The issues for me, and I suspect for the large majority of my colleagues, are not money–remember, we already accept underpayment for our services–but freedom and the future of the profession. The government is stating that when the legislation passes, it will unilaterally dictate what physicians will be paid.

"They cloak this in such terms as 'after suitable discussion' but we all know that a government under financial pressure will define 'discussion' as that period of time allotted to try to convince the medical profession that the government's position is the correct one. If, after the day or two allotted to this process, the profession does not agree, too bad. There's nothing we can do anyway.

"I don't expect much sympathy from the taxpayers of Ontario if doctors are paid less. I admit we do pretty well, but I honestly believe the taxpayers are getting good value for their money.

"The real issue is not what's happening now, but what comes next. When the government has beaten us on the issue of the freedom to bill what we feel we are worth, what comes next? Will they be telling me where I can work, what tests I can order on my patients, whom I can admit to hospital and for how long? Will they tell me how

many patients I must see each day and how many hours I work per week? The average small-town physician now works 65 hours per week–if we cut back to the standard 40, who will fill the gap?

"Essentially what is happening is that the government is conscripting me and my colleagues into the civil service on the cheap. They get all the benefits of control of the profession and we get none of the benefit of being civil servants, indexed pension, limited hours, paid vacations, etc."

I want to put this in Hansard. The next paragraphs are very important. I made a comment in the paper a couple of weeks ago stating that I did not have that much to worry about in Northumberland because none of the doctors there extra billed. This is a letter from Dr. Stephens. He sent me a copy. I want to quote this because I want it to go into Hansard.

"Allow me to correct Mr. Howard Sheppard's perception that 'the proposed legislation will have little effect here.' Because this legislation will in a very basic way change the rules under which we work, it will in the long run change the practice of medicare in Ontario. The flip side of that, by the way, is that it will also change the practice of being a patient in Ontario. Doctors will be less available. Office hours may change. Already in this community one specialist who is opted out has elected to change his practice pattern and this will have very direct repercussions for the services available at Campbellford Memorial Hospital.

"Allow me in closing to quote Michael Davis, publisher of the Kingston Whig-Standard from an editorial he published in the paper this past week: 'The real crisis in health care costs is not doctors' incomes, but the success of our medical treatment. The population is living longer and the older we become the more medical treatment we consume. An ageing population will continue to push up medical costs. We are going to have enough problems coming to grips with these increased costs without grinding down our physicians in the process.'

4:40 p.m.

"The proposed legislation should not be passed in its present form. If it is, there is no doubt in my mind that we will rue the day that we deliberately tell our most important group of medical personnel they can no longer function except as employees of the state."

That was signed by Dr. Henderson, MD, a medical doctor in Campbellford.

Here is a comment I want to read. It is headed, "Cheap-Shot Politics.

"In this week's Journal we have something that we do not have enough of usually. I am referring to the letters to the editor. One letter in particular is the result of the modern, cheap-shot politics being practised by our new provincial government. This letter was written by Dr. R. W. Henderson and should be a warning to us all.

"Let us get one thing straight. Premier David Peterson is not stupid. On the contrary, he is brilliant. That is why he is so dangerous. He has taken a page out of Pierre Trudeau's book–if you want to be a socialist and gain power, become a Liberal. Who cares if it flies in the face of what Liberals used to stand for? The bulk of the media is with you; these days, that is all that matters. People and their freedom do not."

"The cheap shot I referred to is of course the extra or, as Dr. Henderson puts it, the under billing of OHIP. What Peterson has done is to take an affluent, high-profile group and legislate what they earn. Dr. Henderson is right when he says doctors will get little sympathy. But who is next? Is David Peterson suddenly going to get the guts to legislate what lawyers will make? Do not bet on it. Is David Peterson going to legislate what teachers and GM, Ford and Chrysler workers will make? Like hell.

"No, he is going after individuals, free from union control. Who is next? Mr. Peterson shows his contempt of the public's intelligence when he tries to blame the OHIP mess on the doctors. It is just not true and everyone knows it.

"Very few people would put in the years of training to become a doctor, let alone work the hours that they do. To attack them because they make more than the average citizen is cheap-shot politics at its most contemptible. But that does not seem to bother David Peterson either.

"Just ask yourself this question: 'How would you like your wages legislated by politicians?' Remember, a freedom lost is seldom regained. Who is next?"

We have three different organizations in Northumberland. We have the Colborne, Cobourg and Port Hope doctors. Dr. Trevor Hearnden is head of the doctors in Cobourg, Port Hope and Colborne. I want to read into Hansard a couple of proposals he sent to me a while ago.

Mr. Haggerty: What is the date of that letter?

Mr. Sheppard: January 21, 1986. What is wrong with that? It is entitled, "Proposed amendments to the Health Care Accessibility Act.

"1. An amendment to require the provincial government to negotiate in good faith with the

OMA and to seek binding arbitration if no agreement can be reached. This modifies section 3 of that act, which at present does not require the government to negotiate. It should be acceptable to the NDP and would probably be hard for them to oppose."

Did the members of the NDP hear that?

"2. An amendment to allow doctors to freely negotiate and charge fees for services provided in a private office. When such fees are above the OHIP rate, no part of them would be covered by OHIP. This would leave the profession with a small degree of independence while eliminating the large additional fee charges by some surgeons and anaesthetists.

"3. An amendment to exclude small gifts, such as a bag of apples at Christmas, from the act and thus to avoid the risk that a doctor accepting a small, unsolicited gift will be fined $10,000."

Mr. Haggerty: I do not think the letter has convinced the member.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sheppard: I would also like to say that I talked to a couple of doctors in the town of Brighton, Dr. Laughlin and Dr. Twiddy, who are concerned about the health bill. I also had a phone call from Dr. MacLeod, who is head of the doctors in Campbellford. He is outraged with this new bill. He phoned to tell me almost all the doctors were going to opt out in the Campbellford area. He also informed me that Dr. Lewis, who is a specialist in the city of Peterborough and used to come down once a week, will not come to Campbellford unless it is an emergency.

I think the Minister of Health should have a very serious look at this bill and go back and start to negotiate. Had he negotiated first with the Ontario Medical Association, we would not be debating this bill in the House today.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Hansard will note the applause was thundering, especially at my desk.

It is a privilege to rise and speak in this debate. I have always wanted to participate in an Alice-in-Wonderland kind of fantasy world. Following Tory speakers and having now tried to read a fair amount of the Hansard records of this debate, it is with great incredulity and surprise that I rise to try to understand what the Conservative caucus is about in this debate and what position it wants to take to the people of Ontario.

This party to my right, which used to be such a slave of polls and used to do nothing that would offend 51 per cent or 50.5 per cent of the electorate, who might have been in favour or opposed to something, now defies all the public opinion polls, which indicate that 70 per cent and maybe even 80 per cent of the people of Ontario are opposed to extra billing. It now decides it will stand up and fight for the pre-eminent rights of doctors over patients, over the rest of consumers, to opt out of a government-paid plan to provide accessible health care to all people in Ontario.

What a bizzare turn of events, especially when one considers what the–what was that, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. McClellan: One member said it was a crock.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a crock. My goodness, was it not the federal government–Mr. Speaker, you know these things so much better than I–was it not Mr. Mulroney who raised the matter, who said extra billing was a bad thing and decided he was going to punish provinces that did not stop this heinous process?

Mr. Taylor: That was Bégin.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Oh. I thought it was a recent Prime Minister who did not turn this around. Mr. Speaker can correct me on this. De Havilland and the energy plan and all that kind of thing were federal Liberal programs, as I understand it, which had been changed by a Conservative government in Ottawa recently. They did not like the national energy program. They did not like owning de Havilland. They tried to get rid of Canadair, as I recall.

However, when it came to this business of punishing the provinces because they did not like extra billing, did Mr. Mulroney rescind that? Did he say, "It is outrageous that the rights of doctors to charge more than they had bargained for is a right that must be kept sacrosanct?" No. He said: "This is maintained. This is a sacred trust." He said this, lowering his voice several octaves. He did not change this policy.

What about the communications that we thought were so close between the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), the leader of the Conservative Party in Ontario, and his federal leader? Somehow the word did not get transmitted down through Sinclair Stevens or whoever it is who carries the word to the Ontario caucus about what the federal Conservatives are thinking. Instead, we have this strange rising in their seats of some 50 members, who take on this very notion, reading letters into the record, some of them from this century and others from people who are not even doctors talking about their problems with this particular principle.

Mr. Pierce: Some were just patients.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Most of us have had our patience totally taxed through this business and do not want our patients taxed any further. The patients of this province are taxed through OHIP premiums and then are doubly taxed by members of the medical profession who decide that the salaries they get through OHIP rates are not sufficient for them and that they should charge over and above that.

Not one member of this House has not had many more letters in the past, if he is willing to admit to it, from people who feel threatened by extra billing, who think there is a more important principle involved than the privilege of a doctor to practise medicine–and it is a privilege, not a right–and that there is a principle of right of access by all, no matter what their economic status, to good quality health care.

That is what OHIP is supposed to be all about. Unfortunately, when it was brought in, a concession was given to doctors to avoid the confrontations that had taken place in Saskatchewan, and the concession was that they should have the right, if they chose, to charge rates over and above those that were legislated by the government of the day.

It is a very strange labour practice concept, that of bargaining for one set of fees and then actually being able to charge more. Because that practice has been in this province for so long, for some people in this province there has been a double standard, and access to medical care has been impinged on, to lesser degrees than perhaps one would think might have happened. It was not unbridled greed. The whole medical community did not respond and try to take extra money out of the pockets of patients. It is only a small group of practitioners who have done so.

As members of this Legislature, we have heard from many people who have had operations and have had bills sent to their homes afterwards for up to several hundreds of dollars. The member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and other members of this caucus have risen in their seats time and again when past Tory Ministers of Health have raised this with us.

"Give me examples," they used to cry plaintively, and we would rise in our seats and give them examples of how people had been charged large amounts of money, often in cases where they could not afford it, and nothing was ever done about it, as if the principle of equal access for all were not being infringed and impinged on by that action.

For those of us who stand a lot in this House on labour issues, trying to get more equality for workers, whether it is equal pay, first-contract legislation or whatever it may be that is maintaining the vestiges of a class structure in this province, it is incredible to think that these people way off to my right, to the far reaches of Genghis Khan, would actually come to the defence, and make a priority of their defence of a profession which is the strongest union in this country, a monopoly union, which has, in my view, blackmailed previous governments into allowing the excesses of extra billing, rather than defend the rights of first-contract workers.

That they would get up and vote against first-contract legislation–and those who did not have the guts to get up and vote according to their consciences walked–as we saw with only 24 of them in the House the other day–basic legislation to make sure that people at the low end of the income scale, workers in this province–

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Referring to the member's comments about Conservatives who did not have the guts to vote on first-contract legislation yesterday, I unavoidably missed that vote. I want to say I would have voted against that legislation had I been here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would never want it to be thought I would ever suggest that the member for Price Edward-Lennox would ever have voted for that legislation. I would never suggest such a thing and I am sorry if the honourable member felt I would suggest he would ever vote for progressive labour legislation. However, there were others who were on record as wanting first-contract legislation, who supported it being in the speech from the throne–

Mr. Speaker: I am sure we will get back to the subject at hand.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: –and they vacated the premises, shall we say, before the important moment came.

Just yesterday they voted against that kind of legislation and today in this House they can get up and support people who are earning $130,000 a year, because most of the people who opted out are specialists who make an awful lot of money, and say that those workers of that monopoly union should have the right to charge more than levels of payment which already put them amongst the most well-off individuals in our province.

I was thinking it is the most incredible performance. I do not know what constituency they think they are playing to. Maybe it is just a matter of putting the coffers ahead of politics and

hoping to get donations or something from those people who have money. However, I tell the Tories they are going to be punished for this electorally. When they rise and vote against this legislation on second reading, as I sure hope they do, they will all be recorded–those who are in their seats, all 20 of them. Those people in their ridings, who make up that 70 per cent of the people of this province who understand that it is fundamentally wrong to impinge upon the access to equal rights to health care by extra billing, are going to punish them in the next election.

The Tories may get the vote of a few specialists, but in my view, they will not even get the vote of most of the doctors. The vast majority of the doctors have understood from the beginning that extra billing is not necessary to get by in this province, that they do very well on their own. They will not be supporting the Tories. The Tories are going to be a much smaller group come election day.

Mr. Lane: Do not feel sorry for us. We always do fairly well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I take it back. Since I have been asked not to feel sorry for them, I will not feel sorry for them. I will only say that in some cases I may even miss them. In other cases, I definitely will not.

5 p.m.

It is important that we pass this legislation early. I look forward to this going out to the standing committee on social development for hearings, so that the people of Ontario can express their opinions about this legislation; ending this strange, bizarre behariour to my right, this prolonged debate, getting the legislation out to a committee and then back in here and passed, ending extra billing once and for all in Ontario.

Mr. Pierce: I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on Bill 94, the Health Care Accessibility Act. It is an important piece of legislation. In effect, it proposes to change the nature of medical care in Ontario, to end the independence of the medical community; it turns its back on the record of more than a decade and proposes to recast our health care system.

I cannot respect the manner in which this bill has been introduced. I must question the priorities of this government in managing our successful health care system.

If Bill 94 is made law it will be a black mark in the story of health care in Ontario and will attempt to turn back the clock. It will try to impose a rigid framework on a free-flowing system that has served the people of this province well. It will expose the bad results that come when the complex problems of today are approached with a closed mind or a simplistic outlook.

This bill has nothing to do with accessibility to health care, despite its title. Indeed, if truth-in-advertising laws could be applied to government, this administration would be suspected of misleading the public by calling the legislation the Health Care Accessibility Act. This bill will not improve accessibility to health care. I believe it will not improve the quality of health care to which Ontarians currently have access.

Let us call a spade a spade. This legislation should be called the unchanged access to more expensive and less effective health care act. That is what this bill will really achieve, and that is why I cannot support it.

Let us look at the record. On a yearly basis, about four per cent of Ontarians seeking medical care are extra billed. That means about 96 per cent of Ontarians seeking medical care are billed according to the OHIP schedule.

In my riding of Rainy River, I do not know of any extra billing by local doctors. The current billing system was set up in Ontario for two reasons: first, to respect the position of doctors as responsible, independent professionals; and second, to provide choice to the public. The public could receive sound, quality care under the OHIP system. If it wanted a few frills it could pay more and have them.

This flexible system provided a good working atmosphere for the setting of the OHIP fee schedule. It allowed our medical schools and hospitals to attract some of the finest medical minds in the world and to pay salaries befitting their world-class status.

It was a system built on trust and mutual respect. It is a system that has survived and worked well. Our health care system has a high reputation. Why? Because it achieved the kind of balance that gave the people the best that private and state medical programs had to offer.

Ontario's medical care system is the envy of a lot of people throughout the world. The system works. It gives this province the best of both worlds. It is pragmatic and effective.

The government will say Ontario is out of step with the rest of Canada, that we are being punished to the tune of $50 million a year for retaining a system we developed to meet our own needs. I would argue that what might work for Saskatchewan or British Columbia would not necessarily work for Ontario. In addition, just

because the other provinces ban extra billing does that mean such a move is really effective?

When one looks at the geographical size and the population density of Ontario and compares them with British Columbia and Saskatchewan, one is looking at apples and oranges.

When Quebec banned extra billing, Ontario welcomed more than 280 specialists from that province. To me, that statistic alone is a sign of success.

However, the government will say we must keep in step, we must obey the Canada Health Act. If not, Ontario will be out $50 million. That is a significant amount of money, but how effective will $50 million be in the $2.2-billion budget of the Ontario health insurance plan? How much more service will that $50 million provide? How many more doctors will be encouraged to relocate in remote communities? How many more world-class specialists will be encouraged to settle in our province?

Can anyone on the government side answer those questions? I do not think they can. I do not think there are any statistics, any figures, any evidence to show the $50 million a year, which is to be transferred to Queen's Park from Ottawa, will in any way improve accessibility or the quality of health care we enjoy in this province today. The evidence is just not there.

When the Progressive Conservatives moved to set up our health care system, we did not do it overnight. We understood we were dealing with a very complex system. We understood that what we were doing would have a tremendous impact on the people of Ontario. We moved slowly, not out of reluctance but because we cared. We cared to build a climate of understanding, to build carefully and well. We took the entire health care community into our confidence. We sat down and had meeting after meeting so that everyone was aware of what was happening, so that a climate of trust and confidence could be built, a climate essential to the effective operation of any state medical plan.

What has this government done? It has moved swiftly, but without consultation. It will listen to the doctors, but only after introducing the legislation. The government will listen only if it can get its way.

Even my friends to the left recognize that in order to enter into negotiations both sides have to be at the table, and both sides have to be willing to give and take in order to reach a fair settlement.

This is not the way to negotiate or to build a health care system. It is not the way to establish a climate of trust and understanding. This government has a closed mind and is moving in lock-step, like a wind-up toy, to the dictates of the accord signed last May; many of my Liberal friends act as though they would prefer to ignore or pretend this document does not exist.

I am not defending the salaries earned by doctors. Anyone who knows a doctor or has watched a youngster make his or her way through medical school will have a better concept than I of that. What I am defending is the system of medical care that has served Ontario well and has the potential of serving Ontario well for many years to come.

The Liberals, however, have another objective in mind. That objective is not improved access; the figures just do not support that argument. The objective is dogmatic and partisan. It has no connection with the reality of health care in Ontario today. If access was the government's goal, it would have taken a different approach. It would have looked at the situation with the anaesthetists and the obstetricians. They are not in the Ontario health insurance plan. Everyone who has had an operation would probably agree that an anaesthetist is essential to the successful completion of the process, but the government has ignored that situation. I suppose it hopes the province will sleep through the problem. If access was this government's concern, it would have tackled this challenge.

If access was the government's concern, it would have looked at hospital beds. Mr. Speaker, I listened to the third party, and I know you do from time to time. If members had listened to them recently during question period, before they became entranced with the mysteries of insurance, they would have heard that many hospitals are faced with overcrowding.

5:10 p.m.

My colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) brought up the problems the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie is facing. If access was this government's concern, it would have tackled this challenge.

What about the cancer clinics? The media in Toronto has brought to our attention the challenges facing staff at Princess Margaret Hospital.

My colleague the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) brought up the challenge of building a cancer clinic in his community. The Minister for Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) has given this problem his usual attention, which means he has ignored it.

If this government was serious about access, it would have tackled this question. What about the

north? Any of the government members could ask the northern members on this side of the House about access to medical facilities. Flights to the south, even though they are partially subsidized, are not enough. We need expert medical care in all areas north of the French River. Each community across the north needs access to specialized care in its area.

Previous governments were serious about this problem. They did positive things for health care in the north. They offered incentives for doctors and dentists to locate in northern communities. They helped doctors and dentists get established in the northern areas. They worked with communities to build the institutions, set up the health councils and put the basic framework in place. Even members of the third party cannot deny that was an ongoing program.

That framework can be built upon. It should be built upon to ensure that the people of the north have access to the same specialists found in the south and to ensure that those specialists are available and living in the north. If this government was serious about access it would have tackled these challenges first.

What about care for the elderly? The government should ask the members on this side of the House who represent communities with an ageing population. They would tell the government that there is always something extra that can be done for the elderly.

The government is proud of its recent announcement of programs for the elderly. I will not comment until we see these programs put into effect. I will not hold my breath until that moment. If this government moves as quickly to put these programs into effect as it has to bring down its housing policy, I may very well be dead if I hold my breath until that moment.

Home care programs always need more support; more chronic-care beds and more beds for nursing homes are needed. These are the never-ending concerns and are what is meant by accessibility to health care. If this government was serious about access, it would have tackled these challenges.

What about the air ambulance service? Since its inception in 1981, this first-class service has flown more than 24,000 patients to various medical facilities throughout northern Ontario. If this government was serious about access, it would have looked to further improvements in the air ambulance system.

Mr. Ward: We have.

Mr. Pierce: That is right. The government has moved the co-ordinating services to eastern Ontario, and the people operating those services do not even recognize that there are airports in northern Ontario that require people to light the flare-paths before an airplane can land.

What about hospital care in the north? Since 1970, new or replacement hospitals have been built in the north. In Kirkland Lake, Englehart, Red Lake, and in my own riding in Atikokan, Marathon, Wawa, Hearst, Chapleau, Sturgeon Falls, Kenora, Sudbury and Terrace Bay.

It is interesting to note that a number of these hospitals were not built in Conservative ridings but in opposition ridings. That is where the health care services were needed and where the attention was put. More than this, the previous Progressive Conservative government had a strategy to develop a network for self-sufficient health care in the north.

Special emphasis was put on the development of health care services by means of regional referral centres in five major centres: North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and Thunder Bay. Together, these five cities make up 63 per cent of the population of the north. As a result of this program, the north has access to cardiovascular surgery, neurosurgery, nuclear cardiology, burn treatment, life support, cancer treatment, orthopaedics, obstetrics, perinatal services, psychiatry, chronic care, ambulatory medicine, children's treatment, pacemaker treatment and dialysis. All of this is available in the north today, thanks to the efforts of the previous government. It is a firm foundation for future growth.

If this government was serious about access and quality health care, it would be building on this network in a constructive manner. It would be building up health care in co-operation with a system rather than chasing ideological moonbeams. If it was serious about access, it would be looking at programs such as native healers.

That may seem a little foreign to some members, but native healers provide a necessary service throughout northern Ontario. If it was concerned about access, it would be looking at the northeastern Tel-help network and the northern Ontario ambulance radio system. That is what accessibility to health care should be, but the government's legislation does not deal with these programs. It does not tackle the concrete challenges that face our health care system.

Health care is much too important a concern to be treated in so frivolous a manner. Few things are more important to a community than the health of its people. For a government to be providing improved access and a better health

care system through legislation such as this is nothing but a cruel joke on the people of this province.

People in Ontario look to Queen's Park to provide responsible leadership on health care concerns. They expect responsible action and respect for their needs. They do not expect word games or game playing. That is all we are seeing here today. As a union man, I know what it means to bargain in good faith. It means that both sides sit down without any hidden agendas, put their cards on the table and work out their concerns until a practical compromise is reached. There are no threats, just honest discussion. That is what the OMA is asking from this government, honest discussion. The government is saying, "We are going to pass this bill whether we talk or not."

The fair thing would be to set aside this legislation, to sit down and work out the differences; to show the people the government is really concerned and has some feeling for the accessibility of health care and that it is not just out to attack professional groups in this province. But this government will not put down its big stick. The government will shake it in the faces of the province's doctors and say that now it is willing to talk. That is not open discussion. It is certainly not bargaining in good faith.

If this were any other group of workers, my friends to the left–I use that phrase loosely–would be on their feet demanding that this government change its ways. Let me warn them that if this government is so cavalier with the rights of one group of workers–in this case, our doctors–what is there to stop it from rolling over the rights of others? Remember the respect this government has shown for the opinions of others when another labour situation arises.

5:20 p.m.

I do not believe this government has much to be proud of in the way it has handled Bill 94. It has tried to manufacture an issue. It has tried to create a situation whereby it will look tough and decisive, but the real business of government is not smoke and mirrors; it is in achievement and in showing that quality services exist for the people and that the people have effective access to those services. The real business of government lies not in newspaper headlines but in real achievements for the betterment of the community.

From the way this government has handled Bill 94, I am not convinced it is really interested in effective governing. Members of the government party know that. We should ask the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) or participants at the recent policy convention in Windsor. This government knows that informed opinion finds a great deal that is questionable in Bill 94. The government should know the approach it is taking to health care will benefit very few people in the long run.

I cannot support this legislation because of the way it has been introduced and handled by the government. It has shaken the atmosphere of trust and mutual respect which has provided Ontario with some of the best health care found anywhere. Despite its title, Bill 94 will do nothing to improve access to health care in Ontario. Despite the government's rhetoric, Bill 94 will do nothing for health care in the north. It will do nothing to help the people of the district of Rainy River which I represent. Indeed, it has only annoyed the local medical community.

Through its handling of this legislation, its method of dealing with the OMA and its approach to health care concerns as a whole, this government is continuing to prove itself unfit for the responsibilities it eagerly seized last June. The people of Ontario are judging the government. It will be judged in the end not by the number of headlines it receives in the papers but by its achievements. Ontario does not need Bill 94. Stop fooling around, get down to the real business of government and give us the legislation our province needs. Give us the leadership our people deserve.

Mr. Pollock: I am pleased to be able to enter this debate. I would like to put on the record–

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: We are voting at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Pollock: Good for the minister.

I do not believe there is a single doctor in my riding who has opted out of OHIP. They are all general practitioners. As far as I am concerned, they do a first-class job of serving the medical needs of the riding of Hastings-Peterborough.

I have always had a lot of sympathy for those specialists who do very special operations. I had a young gentleman working for me at one time whose mother had been diagnosed as having a brain tumor. The operation was scheduled for a particular day. The family was called in, and just before the operation started the doctor came over to talk to them. This fellow told me the doctor was alert, young looking, energetic and very concerned about this operation. He went into the operating room and was there for 12 hours. It was a far more serious operation than they had originally thought. My employee told me when the doctor came out of the operating room he was just about beat. He looked older and one could

tell he had been under a tremendous strain. I have a lot of sympathy for those doctors who do these very special operations.

I would like to talk for a few minutes about some of my concerns and things that have happened in my riding.

Thank goodness we now have far better ambulance service than we used to have in the rural areas. I can recall a situation in a rural area not far from where I live. A chap was in a car accident and the steering wheel had crushed his chest. This man knew a little bit about medicine and wanted oxygen, but there was no oxygen around. They had called the ambulance, but the ambulance driver was not familiar with the rural area and got lost. As a result, this chap hung in there for two hours, but eventually he died. That was because of lack of good ambulance service at that time in that area. Now the local fire department has a resuscitator and it can administer oxygen. If it had had that at that time, it might have been able to save that gentleman's life.

There are also other health care needs we have in the riding of Hastings-Peterborough. For the last two years or so there has been a plan for the nursing home to close down in Norwood. The lady who was running the nursing home wanted out of the nursing home business. She only had 33 beds, and she had to do a lot of renovating to stay in the business. She wrote the minister and stated she wanted out of the nursing home business.

Finally, the government did move all of the people in these beds over to Marmora, but these elderly people had lived in the Norwood area and they felt their privileges were being ignored by someone taking them 20 miles away and placing them in a nursing home a long way away from their families and relatives. I know they are getting excellent care in Marmora. Nevertheless, we need a new nursing home in the Norwood area. We have been lobbying to try to get extra beds for that area. So far, we really do not have a commitment for those extra beds. It is certainly a concern of mine and–

Mr. Haggerty: How long has the member been lobbying?

Mr. Pollock: For about two or three years anyway.

Mr. Haggerty: That does not say much for the past government, does it?

Mr. Gillies: It does not say much for the present government.

Mr. Pollock: We were promised 60 beds a while ago. Apparently they have just been reannounced, but we still do not have a commitment. It is certainly a concern of mine to have a nursing home in the Norwood area.

Let me take a minute just to say we have one of the best health care systems in the world and tampering with our health care program is a real concern of mine. I would just like to take a few minutes to discuss the different health care programs around the world.

Let me first take a look at the British system. This program has been in existence for 33 years. This program pays all the medical expenses and is totally free to the British public. Since the British system was implemented, health care in Britain has declined steadily. There is currently a list of 641,000 people waiting for hospital beds. There are only 364,000 beds available in the British hospitals. This means there are two people waiting for one bed. Those who pay out of their own pocket for beds go to the top of the list. Britain allows private insurance and permits doctors to practise outside of the national health system. These doctors are paid directly by their patients. Even some trade unions, traditionally opposed to private medicine, now enroll their members in private health plans.

5:30 p.m.

The Swedish system is somewhat different from the British system. The Swedish system covers everything from free dental care for children to free home visits and cab fares for the elderly. Medical care is provided almost entirely through the hospitals–for even minor illnesses–or by the company health centres. Many large Swedish firms operate their own health care centres. More than 90 per cent of the doctors in Sweden are employed by the state.

Getting a doctor to treat one privately is an almost impossible process. An American journalist working in Sweden had to return home to America to receive treatment for a minor ailment that had been plaguing him for a year. He said that Sweden has well-trained doctors, beautifully equipped hospitals and all the modern medical conveniences; the only problem is one can never get access to them.

Mr. Philip: That is why they live so long.

Mr. Pollock: The member said that the other night.

Mr. Philip: Why do they live so long if the system is so bad?

Mr. Pollock: The Swedes pay user fees and that is a real surprise to me. They pay five dollars for each visit to a doctor and six dollars for each visit to a hospital. They pay a maximum of $10

for each prescription drug. As of July 1, there will be a ceiling on the direct cost to the consumer. All the health care costs are paid by taxes collected by the government. They do not even have volunteers in their system.

Swedes have a population approximately the same size as that of Ontario, eight million. The Swedish health bill is about $10 billion to $12 billion, double ours. Swedes spend nine per cent of their gross national product on health care. Ontario spends about five per cent. Swedes pay directly for three per cent of their total health costs. Here in Ontario, we pay approximately 20 per cent through our OHIP premiums.

Where most people in Sweden receive their health care, doctors work from nine in the morning to five o'clock in the afternoon, and they are on call at overtime rates in the evening and on weekends. This is a clincher. Because of the high income tax, doctors tend to take their overtime as time off rather than in cash. The result is that most of the doctors take holidays of between three and five months.

Mr. McClellan: We all know this is the very essence of truth.

Mr. Pollock: I doubt if they all have yachts anyway.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pollock: It has been a real pleasure participating in this debate.

The Deputy Speaker: I did not want to discourage the member for Hastings-Peterborough. Is there any other honorable member who wishes to participate in the debate? The member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague).

Mr. McClellan: He has already spoken three times in this debate.

Mr. McCague: Is that correct?

The Deputy Speaker: You can only speak once on each bill in the House.

Mr. McCague: I shall continue.

I am pleased to speak on Bill 94 and to bring to the attention of the House some of the feelings of people in my riding about this legislation. I am disappointed that until I offered to meet with certain groups within my riding, I had only two letters from constituents who were opposed to extra billing, and one from a doctor who thought it was a good idea. That does not seem to indicate the level of concern that we in this House would like to think there is out there about the bill, regardless of what side of the issue one happens to be on. Of course, it is understandable from the doctors' point of view, because they have never been known to be very political people.

They go about their work and basically mind their own business. They do not like being interfered with by politicians. The present move by the Liberal government does have them upset, and for valid reasons.

The doctors raise the issue of the long-term viability of the health care system in the province. A lot of things are raised by groups in society when some legislation or some action is proposed, and they often do that on the basis of a certain fear they see in the future.

In this case, the doctors have a point of which this Legislature should take cognizance. The fear they are raising is borne out by the chaos or disarray of the Quebec system at present, and further underlined by the actions taken in Britain which have now resulted in a system with which no member of this Legislature would be satisfied. We cannot deny the doctors the point that we may be leading into that type of less viable system.

I want to make a comment or two about the contribution made in this debate by the member for Humber. He has a sister in my riding who does not agree with him, but I happen to agree more with the member for Humber than with his sister who shares the opposite opinion.

Mr. McClellan: She must be a New Democrat.

Mr. McCague: That is a choice, but a poor one.

The member for Humber gave a very reasoned speech on the subject and one that, in my riding, is as popular as any article that I have recently been able to circulate.

He stated at the time that he had campaigned on a promise that they—they being the Liberals—would negotiate with the Ontario Medical Association. He believed the operative word in the Liberal promise was "negotiate."

After hearing his remarks, it is my view that the government did not seriously try to negotiate the extra billing question. The issue, in his opinion, is the health care of Ontarians and the democratic right of two people to negotiate a simple contractual agreement with each other, perhaps with certain safeguards provided by the state.

He stated he was defending against the threat of a weakening of the health care system. He also argued that he believes in democracy and freedom, as I do, and that it is not advisable for the state, in peacetime, to conscript physicians or any other group in society and compromise their

democratic freedoms and circumstances other than in a temporary state emergency.

The bill compromises the right of two citizens to negotiate a simple contract with each other. We are both opposed to this. He talked about personal liberty. That is important to him, and it is impossible for him to support legislative measures that compromise personal liberty. Freedom is not negotiable. He states he is a Liberal because he believes in individuals, but also a professional who believes in professionalism.

5:40 p.m.

We all agree that we cannot improve the health care system by seeming to alienate and demean the professionals on whom we rely to provide the excellent services and competent leadership that makes the system work. He asks whether we want the practice of medicine to become a state monopoly. Look at state monopolies around the world. What kind of doctors, surgeons and anaesthetists do we want? He defends the right of any citizen or group to freedom from conscriptive control, as do we in this party.

He does not believe in one side dictating to the other by saying: "We are going to negotiate you a three per cent raise this year. As soon as you agree, we will start negotiating the means by which we will bring it about. If the union says, "No way," the company could hardly say, "See, they would not negotiate." Does that not sound like some of the newspaper articles you have read in the past?

This is not his idea of negotiating in the context of freedom and democracy. The present Liberal government, namely the Minister of Health, suggests an absolute ban on extra billing is a matter of principle and the principle is non-negotiable. The member for Humber states, "In truth, however, the non-negotiable ban on extra billing is not a principle at all, but a chosen tactic or strategy for solving a particular problem as perceived by particular people." Did he get this impression during caucus discussions?

I have received representations from the fine doctors in my riding. I have also received letters from several people outside it. I know various members will have brought those letters to the attention of this House and I will be dealing only with those from my riding.

We have in Ontario major teaching hospitals and research facilities employing many doctors, many of them internationally recognized specialists. Who will pay for university teaching of undergraduate and post-graduate medical students? At present, teaching-hospital specialists see this as an honorary part of their work. Who will pay for clinical research? Could we expect any doctor to provide these services on a goodwill basis after the passage of a bill such as Bill 94?

How does the government plan to compensate doctors after taking away their right to set fees? Is it possible to control the extra billing by adding an innocuous code to the OHIP cards of the financially disadvantaged? Why does the government not withdraw the bill, start from square one, and discuss this and possibly other options to solve the problem?

People on social assistance, by having a designated number on their OHIP cards, would not be hurt by extra billing. Anyone in need because of unfortunate circumstances could apply to OHIP to get the designated number. Senior citizens below a specific income level could be issued a designated number, thus eliminating them from the hardships of extra billing. This may be too simplistic.

We have the best health care system in the world, as has been said many times by all, and the finest doctors and specialists. Some of them went to school for 14 years to become the brightest and best in their field. Are we to discourage excellence when we do not have to do that? The present maximum of 15 per cent of the doctors in the province who extra bill has not hurt the population. We can help those caught at the lower-income end. The government should enter into negotiations with the doctors to solve the problems of extra billing and not ban it.

I have a thoughtful letter from the head of the medical staff of the Dufferin Area Hospital in Orangeville. David J. Scott writes to the Premier: "I feel compelled to write in regard to the recent legislation entitled"–and we know what that is.

"All physicians in the area of Dufferin county are opted-in physicians so the legislation will not change our billing practices, and this is the situation for most of the province. However, it appears to me to be a drastic measure designed to improve the so-called accessibility for five to six per cent of the services rendered to Ontario patients by opted-out physicians.

"To all intents and purposes, the Ontario physicians have been conscripted by your government without some of the other benefits which civil servants enjoy nor any of the protections they also have.

"The withdrawal of services is repugnant to most of us and we really have limited means to express our opposition to your government's action in spite of a long and faithful service to the

people of the province. Certainly our experience with previous governments, as well as the present government, has not been one of trust and good faith, and I can only suggest the people of this province will ultimately be the losers because of the actions of your government. Even in Great Britain and the province of Quebec where other systems are in force, patients do have alternative forms of service, which will presently be denied in Ontario.

"I find the latest action of government just another episode in which the self-governing professions are being systematically controlled and manipulated simply for political expediency. It is indeed a sad commentary on the evolution of public policy that in these times of supposed emphasis on individual rights governments feel compelled to draft legislation which effectively limits our freedoms. It is government action which has made the Charter of Rights so necessary.

"In the final analysis, physicians will gradually become less personally committed, less prepared to spend hours of nonremunerative time being on call and working on various hospital committees. This is a particularly onerous responsibility in a small community.

"I send this letter more in sorrow than in anger because it is becoming increasingly clear that long and faithful service is being sacrificed on the altar of political expediency."

I am sure you would agree, Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent letter.

There have been a lot of very thoughtful articles on the subject in the newspapers in my area. I have one that I am sure our New Democratic Party colleagues will love. It is written by a lady in Collingwood who has never been backward about expressing her opinion in whatever way she thought in any of the local newspapers. Her name is Mrs. Nora McLaughlin of Maple Street.

She writes to the editor: "The dictatorial attitude of the Liberal-NDP government awakened many of us to the realization that we have all but lost our individual freedom.

"Some journalists believe that we will never regain it. 'Free individuals are doomed,' writes Derek Nelson from Queen's Park. 'Doctors should accept reality,' writes Lorrie Goldstein, Queen's Park reporter, in the Toronto Sun.

"Some people do not agree and are fighting back. One is Merv Lavigne whose battle is described in Derek Nelson's article. Lavigne is a Haileybury community college teacher who is involved in a Charter of Rights case before the Ontario Supreme Court." I think this has been read into the record previously.

She goes on to say, "No doubt many of their total of 152,000 members"–that is the Ontario Public Service Employees Union; no, it is not OPSEU. That is not part of the article.

Mr. McClellan: The member is afraid to read what it says about–

Mr. McCague: I will send Hansard to her.

Mr. McClellan: He should send it to all of them.

Mr. McCague: Would the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) like to include any others in my riding whose vote he is trying to encourage?

It says: "David Peterson stripped many Ontarian citizens of their right to fair and democratic representation by signing the two-year pact with Rae."

Did the member say "Right on?" Did someone say that?

5:50 p.m.

"The pro-life movement in Ontario was the first victim. The doctors are the second. The ban on extra billing is clearly Rae's baby. It is noticeable that Rae is as visible doing all the talking while Peterson stays out of the newscasts. Why? Is it Rae's turn to play Premier? Or did Peterson sell a piece of his soul to gain power, although he had no stomach for his legislation?

"There is more on the agenda with which many citizens would disagree if they understood it. Equal pay for work of equal value is one; it is not the same as equal pay for equal work.

"The dictatorial handling of the doctors by the Liberal-NDP government contrasts sharply with its differential treatment of Dr. Morgentaler. Mr. Elston, Minister of Health, even gave him an Ontario health insurance plan number. If Ontario citizens value good quality medical care and individual freedom, they will support the doctors. If the doctors lose their battle through the lack of our support, we will get the quality of medical care and government we deserve."

Freedom of the press is observed. We were very fortunate last Friday night to have the Minister of Health in our riding to address the Collingwood hospital foundation and we much appreciated the effort he made to be in attendance. While he was there, the doctors were carrying on some kind of demonstration outside, and the minister did speak to them. One of the strong Liberals in my riding introduced the minister. When he went to go home he had a flat tire. I guess members know who got blamed for

that. However, one of the doctors did give him a ride.

This editorial appeared on December 23 in the Barrie Examiner:

"Ontario physicians are fighting mad over the provincial government's soon-to-be-legislated ban of extra billing, the practice followed by some doctors, mainly specialists, of charging over and above the negotiated OHIP fee schedule.

"They charge the ban infringes on their rights, that it will encourage assembly-line medicine, that it is really a smokescreen for the shortage of health care dollars for medical care facilities, such as new expanded hospitals, and that extra billing does not really deny access to the doctor of individual choice. They are right on all counts.

"If they mount a full-fledged campaign to fight the extra-billing ban, it may be one of the last battles in a two-decade-long process that has reshaped the health care system in Canada that began with the introduction of universal government-supplied medical and hospital insurance.

"Realistically, the Ontario government had little choice but to ban extra billing. To do otherwise would not only have broken the pact the governing Liberals have with the provincial NDP, but also shortchanged the provincial taxpayers by some $75 million in federal health care moneys." I think that figure is a little high.

"Nearly two years ago, the Trudeau government, determined to stamp out extra billing and hospital user fees in some provinces, made portions of such transfer payments conditional on banning those practices. Decisions to ban extra billing or hospital user fees had previously been taken by a number of provincial governments as a result of the federal government pressure through its transfer payments. Unless the Ontario doctors can successfully fight the extra-billing ban in the courts, full-blown socialized medical care is here to stay in the province and across the country."

I do not think one can say that too often, "Unless the Ontario doctors can successfully fight the extra-billing ban in the courts, full-blown socialized medicine care is here to stay in the province and across the country." That is exactly what our friends to the left would wish.

There is another letter to the paper by a doctor, N.D. Gripper, who has been in my home town for many years.The headline reads, "Bottom Line of Liberal Bill 94 Right to Deal with Patients." It says:

"Recently, there has been a lot of publicity over the Liberal government's Bill 94, of which, as Barbara Amiel wrote in the Sunday Sun on December 29, 'In one fell swoop the Liberal government of Ontario has nationalized an entire profession, turning doctors overnight into civil servants.'

"At issue is the loss by the medical profession of Ontario of its right, since the days of Hippocrates, to deal directly with patients for payment of services. There are 15,000 doctors in Ontario. About 12 per cent of them exercised this about seven per cent of the time by billing beyond the payments from the government's insurance plan (OHIP). Nevertheless, the remaining 88 per cent knew they had this right and could use it if they wished as an escape from direct government control or as a bargaining tool in this proudly free country.

"Premier Peterson has removed that right, thereby conscripting the profession inescapably into the government arena for his own political benefit. Unfortunately, as we have so often seen, politicians come and go and we are left with the gravestones of their political ventures for the rest of our lives.

"To be specific, the federal government, as a result of Monique Bégin when minister of health, withholds $50 million a year from the health care transfer payments to Ontario until the physicians' freedom to charge above OHIP payments is removed by the provincial government. This represents half of one per cent of an Ontario provincial health budget of $9 billion–hardly a major factor, bearing in mind $800 million is spent on the tobacco industry while many major health service problems go unattended.

"Physicians have little taste for political confrontation, have very little bargaining power that can be directed at the government and need the support of their patients if they are to retain their ever-diminishing independence."

Here is another article from a Collingwood paper. I will just tell members the headline: "Professionals or Civil Servants? Doctors Say This Is the Debate."

The doctors in Collingwood, when the minister was there on Friday night, chose to boycott the fund-raising dinner. They did buy tickets, however, which were for the benefit of the hospital foundation, because they were able to sell those 27 seats the second time around and, as a result, were able to make about $20,000 towards future expansion plans at the hospital. The headline was, "No Doctors in the House When Elston Arrives."

This might be an appropriate time to break off and I shall continue this evening.

The House recessed at 5:58 p.m.

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, February 4, 1986
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 4, 1986

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT
(continued)

Resuming the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

Mr. McCague: Before the dinner hour, I was–

Mr. McKessock: You were just winding up.

Mr. McCague: I am not sure what the member for Grey just said.

Miss Stephenson: He said the member was just winding up.

Mr. McCague: Yes. He unwound in the local papers. I have been reading his material and he has been reading mine. He does not respond directly to it, but he gets the ministers and others in his party to respond. I rather enjoy the dialogue.

I was reminded by the Clerk of the House, before the member and I felt hungry, that I made a mistake in adjourning the debate. I should have suggested it was six o'clock and we should stop for a bite. I did not understand that and I appreciate the fact the Clerk brought it to my attention that I should not do that in future unless the subject after dinner is different from the one before it.

However, I have a number of points raised by physicians in my riding I want to put on the record. To sum up the issue, the Liberals are talking about a short-term gain that may well lead to long-term pain. I know what the Liberals are suggesting has a certain amount of political pizzazz, if I may put it that way. It is a very misunderstood issue out there. It is incumbent upon us in opposition to point out to the government it may be making a mistake in what it is proposing.

I have letters from 20 doctors. Some of them are radical opinions, but now that they have been prompted or disturbed to the point that they want to put their thoughts on paper, I should let what they have to say be part of the record of this House.

Dr. Lapointe in Collingwood talks about various things in a letter he wrote me. He says: "It is with great concern that I am writing this, my first letter ever to an MLA. Why would I, who have been practising in Ontario for 13 years and have been relatively apolitical during that time, write to you now? The proposed Health Care Accessibility Act has prompted me to this action."

This is a rather novel quote, but he says: "It has been said that if a frog is dropped into boiling water, it will immediately jump out. I would do the same. However, if the same amphibian is placed in a bowl of tepid water and the temperature gradually rises over a period of time, the frog will be cooked before ever becoming aware of its discomfort.

"The cost of providing medical care has risen exponentially. I cannot agree more, but is it the physicians' fault or is it the fault of the public who have been promised a free lunch in their demands for more frequent and more costly treatment for the most trivial of reasons?

"On Sunday, January 12, at 10:30 p.m., I was called to the emergency department. A 24-year-old lady had presented herself there as being an emergency patient. It is hospital policy that any patient brought to emergency should be seen by a physician before being released. I was called from home. The situation was this: While making a pizza, this lady was chopping onions. Her eyes began to water and she went to the hospital. This visit cost the government approximately $100, including myself and the hospital charge for the use of an emergency room.

"I am sure events such as this are not what the government had in mind when it promised free medical care, but this is what is happening almost universally in Ontario. Unnecessary expenses, totally unjustifiable in any medical sense, are inflating the cost to where even a government cannot afford them. There has to be a better system. There has to be some form of deterrent fee or otherwise to prevent totally unnecessary demands for medical service.

"The history of government-funded institutions and services has been a dismal one. Our hospital, the Collingwood General and Marine, has 115 beds. Presently we are being funded for

only 83 of these beds. The hospital budget has been pared, staff has been reduced, wings have been closed. The necessary purchase of up-to-date equipment has been delayed. The administrator is unable to present a balanced budget without the input of aggressively solicited private funds from our community. Bazaars, bingos, services clubs, women's auxiliary all have to complement the government funding in order to provide a reasonable level of service.

"What once was an efficient, well-run, local, private ambulance company has been taken over and managed by a totally inefficient, centralized ambulance dispatch service which provides less than optimal service to this community.

"In this era, bag ladies freeze to death in Toronto stairways, parks and culverts. These same citizens have access to triple cardiac bypass surgery, renal transplants and other extremely expensive, life-prolonging medical intervention. We live in an era where doctors and other health professionals are being sued for failing to order exotic tests or X-rays, not having used the latest generation of antibiotics, failing to provide 100 per cent satisfactory results or failing to prolong life aritificially.

"Since government has promised the people free medical care, this is what the public expects. The unfortunate situation is that government cannot afford such care and the whole medical profession is being damned for lack of medical accessibility. Accessibility is a huge smoke-screen, an attempt to discredit doctors and other health professionals, letting them bear the brunt of professional dissatisfaction over underfunding.

"Witness the demonstrated need for chemotherapy and radiation apparatus at Toronto cancer hospitals. The need is for $746 million. The budget is $240 million. Are the medical professions being blamed for this great discrepancy?

"It is an old adage that where there is no reward for initiative, there is no initiative. Let the doctors get a fair return for their efforts. Reward them rather than supress them. Address the real issues. Can Ontario and Canada afford free medical care?"

While I was reading, I noted the member for Grey was interjecting. I am reading from a letter from Dr. Lapointe in Collingwood, a gentleman who treats many people from the honourable member's riding. I hope he appreciates the sincerity of the remarks that were made. That is a longer letter, and I read more from it than I intend to from some others.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. McKessock: I wonder why the member's party did not bring in legislation over the last 10 years.

Mr. McCague: I think those are fair points. As I said when I started, when the member was not here, I want to present a balanced critique of this bill. I realize, as does the member, that there are people on many sides of it. I am having an easier job defending our party's position on it than he is protecting his party's position on it.

I have a letter from Dr. Peter Phillips who is also from Collingwood. He says: "Presently I am an opted-in physician. The Liberal government is about to take away my freedom of choice and that is what I am fighting for by opting out. The issue here is not money. Most opted-out physicians earn less than their opted-in colleagues because they see fewer patients, those who are really sick.

"We doctors who are opted in are forced to see many patients with trivial complaints. Because medicare is free, we have our problems. Quebec-style medicare is the poorest in the country with its extremely low fee schedule, restrictions on the number of visits patients may make to their doctor for any one problem, doctors forced to practise where they are told, ceilings on incomes so doctors are forced to close their offices every three months and under-the-table remuneration to physicians. Just ask any doctor in Quebec. Recall the horror stories of the British National Health Service and they will come about in our province. After all, the government has to control costs."

Dr. Jardine says: "This or any bill which reduces the authority of any practising physician is to be grossly deplored. Had I known when I embarked on a career in medicine how it would end, I would never have started. No one goes through medicine to become a civil servant."

Dr. Clark of Collingwood says: "I am primarily opposed to this bill because it is a major step to absolute socialism in our province and in our nation. OHIP, by its name, is a health insurance plan, not a blanket coverage of every eventuality. Accessibility has always been excellent from the medical standpoint."

Mr. Speaker, would you ask my colleagues behind to–

Miss Stephenson: Cease and desist.

Mr. McCague: That is correct.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, in the row behind the member speaking.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The member could never keep them under control before. Why should he start now?

Mr. McCague: I would be glad to have one of the pages get them some potato chips or something. I have the money here.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Try peanuts.

Miss Stephenson: Try peanuts over there.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Peanuts would work better, not chocolate bars.

Miss Stephenson: Over there they may. They can hang by their tails over there.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. McCague: We will get a whole bunch of birdseed.

"The main obstruction to accessibility at the present time is–

Mr. Cureatz: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was wondering whether there was quorum. I believe there is.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present.

Mr. McCague: In case the members have forgotten, I was reading from a letter from Dr. Clark of Collingwood.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Does the member think he could run that by us one more time?

Mr. McCague: Yes.

"Accessibility has always been excellent from the medical standpoint and the main obstruction to accessibility at the present time is due to the lack of funding to hospitals, with restriction of beds and other treatment modalities that cause long delays with patients or causes them to travel long distances for their care. Why the government feels that it is perfectly satisfactory to have a patient travel many miles for care when it is related to hospital facilities but not to have to travel any distance at all when it comes to medical treatment is beyond my understanding. They have obviously adopted a double value system for their own political desires and goals."

Dr. Brown, again, is from Collingwood. He talks about problems in a letter he has written to his patients. We all have to realize that many people have a very coveted, warm and caring relationship with their doctor. They want to hear what the doctor has to say on this particular issue, because the population is confused. It is confused because 85 per cent of the people feel the health care system in the province is excellent; yet when one throws the red herring of extra billing in front of them, only about 20 per cent agree that extra billing should be allowed. I suggest to members that at least half the population does not know what extra billing means, but the government has been able to throw out that red herring and throw some degree of disarray into the system.

Mr. McKessock: The federal government made an issue out of it.

Mr. McCague: The honourable member will recall which federal government it was that caused the problem in the first instance.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: All three parties agreed. The federal Conservative leader had a chance to get out of it in 1984 and he did not.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. McCague: That may well be, but there will come a day when the people sitting over there will realize that they are the government. There are 125 of us here, but the Liberals are the government. On the federal scene when this came in, it was their friends in Ottawa who did it to us.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Supported by all parties and in the election.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. McCague: Dr. Brown writes to his patients that he is "writing this letter out of frustration and despair to help you understand the issues of extra billing and the so-called Health Care Accessibility Act, 1985.

"With this letter I hope to obtain your support, not only for the medical profession but also for those requiring health care services now and, more importantly, in the future. The Premier of this province has with this act made an ill attempt at addressing a nonproblem. Example: extra billing.

"Let me illustrate. The Ontario Hospital Association in December 1985 polled various public focus groups. When asked of their concerns relative to health care issues, the top five responses were: (1) ageing population, (2) emergency care, (3) funding and operations, (4) development of community-based health care facilities and (5) hospital user fees.

"In other words, the extra billing issue, which was among the issues ranked in the poll, did not even make it to the top five. Indeed, it was last or almost last on the priority list. The extra billing issue is not an issue the public generally feels concerned about relative to overall health care." That is an excellent point. "Why does this government not address what concerns the public and the doctors have instead of playing politics with the NDP?

"The accessibility of physicians' services to you has not been denied or hampered by the few doctors, approximately 12 per cent of all the physicians in Ontario, who have decided to opt out. 'Extra billing' is indeed a poor term and

refers to a difference in dollars between what your insurance company pays for your visit to me and the actual fee as per the Ontario Medical Association schedule.

8:20 p.m.

"OHIP pays approximately 70 per cent of the fee. The act, in its present form, will in one motion have the effect of nationalizing an entire profession. Losing our economic freedom indeed, as our intellectual freedom, will most certainly stifle initiative. The art of medicine will die and the practice of medicine will suffer.

"The government will have 15,000 new civil servants and with that comes the gradual and inevitable decline in morale, productivity, the willingness to go that extra mile on behalf of you, my patients." That is an excellent point.

"Waiting lists for specialist's appointments, already long, will probably be even longer. If our experience reflects the British experience, the ideal of availability of health care services, equal to all, will indeed become a nonreality as those with money buy their way (under the table) to the head of waiting lists. These events will not happen overnight but they will happen." Dr. Brown makes an excellent point.

Dr. Eagleson from Collingwood makes the point:

"The Ontario and federal governments for reasons of their own have chosen to deliberately misrepresent the nature of the problem by exaggerating the importance of extra billing by a few doctors, while remaining silent on the real causes of inaccessibility and of financial crisis, and in the process have maligned and alienated my honourable profession, have set patients against doctors and are determined to deprive me of a basic freedom.

"With respect to professional fees, they are determined to oppose a system that they would never tolerate for the legal profession, even if they thought it might correct the scandalous inaccessibility to justice that the poor in Ontario experience, as compared to the rich.

"How will I respond if the government forces this legislation through? No kind of oppression by government will make me withhold my services from patients." That is a very honourable point. "I can think of legislation that would move me to civil disobedience, but this is not one of them. This does not leave me many options for protest, but as a token I will opt out of OHIP at great inconvenience and financial loss. Furthermore, I will resign from my hospital appointment and at the same time make myself available to hospital patients, if allowed."

Dr. Timpson from Collingwood says:

"As one who has practised family medicine in Ontario for 25 years, I am tired of government influence and attempts to control the practice of medicine. At no time have I ever seen the medical profession more militant, united and prepared to fight this absolute inroad of political injustice into the health care field. We will not stand by and see the political power destroy one of the best health care delivery systems in the world."

These are all very excellent points. We are fortunate to have a few lady doctors in the area too. Dr. Thora Hayes says:

"Competition stimulates and generates: Why try to penalize the citizen who is willing, unselfishly, to work 23 or 24 hours a day to save lives of strangers without thought of self and exemplifying an edifice of character to our youth. If this bill succeeds in being passed, would it not be a logical extension to penalize lawyers who work overtime, to ministers, to members of parliament who spend many long hours beyond the nine-to-five average work day, unselfishly dedicated to the needs of others. How will this decision be criticized in Canadian history?

"A further step: Why are we willing to risk nuclear holocaust to defend our system of free enterprise when we in practice attempt to violate those very principles with punitive legislation? Why should we ask our most vigorous, potentially productive youth, to lay down their lives to defend this system in the armed services? Should they not turn and ask, what is the point?"

All doctors do not write well. This looks like Dr. Grit but it cannot be his name. Maybe another doctor can tell me what it says. However, Dr. Houston points out that he is an opted-in family physician who has never extra billed.

"Government-issue health service means underfunding, waiting lists, crowding and lack of access to quality medical care. Who will speak out for the needs of my patients when I am a civil servant paid to implement government policy?"

Miss Stephenson: Dr. Grills.

Mr. McCague: The member for York Mills says it is Dr. Grills rather than Dr. Grit.

Anyway, he feels, "The government does not have the right to conscript the medical profession and remove our rights to practise independently."

To carry on with the points Dr. Houston was making: "I am an opted-in family physician and, therefore, this legislation would have no immedi-

ate effect on my income or in the way in which my patients receive medical care.

"I am certain that this type of government over-control will utimately give us a medical system in which patient freedom is restricted rather than increased. The government will find it necessary to regulate services more and more. In a system where only the government pays, only the government will have a say in what institutions and programs receive what money, in what procedures a patient is allowed to have and which doctor a patient must see."

Dr. McGillivray from Collingwood has, as I told him personally on Saturday, a different way of expressing things than a lot of people. He was a candidate in the both federal and provincial elections on behalf of the Social Credit Party. I shall read a few things he pointed out to me.

"The effect on patients is not always visible at first, but the effect in the last 25 years has been a gradual deterioration of their responsibility for their own health and increasing demands for more and better care, more and faster service, more expensive tests and X-rays, and to a degree that is wasteful and becoming more so.

"As I write this, I have just been called to come to attend to a man who fractured his hand by punching a door in a fit of temper. Such actions are becoming more common. The result is that physicians are so busy with the volume of work that they cannot give the proper attention to those really needing good care.

"Our emergency room nurses state the 'garbage' calls decreased remarkably when three general practitioners opted out of OHIP. Patients then phoned to see who was on call in the evening, and if an opted-in doctor was on call they would come with insignificant or long-standing complaints, and if an opted-out doctor was on call they would wait until morning, as they should do, for these non-emergency complaints.

"The rights of contract may seem insignificant at first, but this bill is a price-control measure aimed at 1,700 physicians. It will be a precedent for all lawyers to be restricted to legal aid fees and for dentists to be restricted similarly and eventually for price controls to be fastened on everyone."

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: He is quoting doctors' letters.

Mr. McCague: That is right. Was that not clear to the member?

Miss Stephenson: These are letters from physicians in his riding.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: He is not supposed to read letters.

Miss Stephenson: Oh, none of the minister's colleagues has ever done that?

Mr. McCague: It is still a democracy.

"The point is I am reliably informed that there is more private practice in medicine in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany than there will be in Ontario if this bill is passed."

I pointed out to you that Dr. McGillivray was a little different. "Certainly there have been great changes in the communist countries. It is because they have tried the systems that the Liberals and NDP want us to try. Must we make all the same mistakes ourselves? Experience keeps a hard school but fools will learn in no other.

8:30 p.m.

"To me, the most annoying thing is that this bill is aimed at, a nonexistent or one-in-a-million problem, 10 cases of overbilling a year in a province of eight million. Even when the NDP advertised for victims they could not find them.

"Physicians have looked after the poor for hundreds of years and have been glad if they were paid anything, and even thanked. Now, for political purposes, we are being conscripted by the state in peacetime as if we were undesirable vultures who preyed upon the sick instead of helping them. If you want more letters from me, please ask your secretary to phone me." He says he has lots of material, and with that I agree.

Dr. Don Smith says he is a family doctor who has been opted out of OHIP for more than five years: "In this period–

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We are not supposed to read letters. Debate the bill.

Miss Stephenson: Has none of the member's colleagues ever done that?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Don Mills and the member for Niagara Falls are having a little history lesson here at the expense of the member for Dufferin-Simcoe.

Miss Stephenson: I am the member for York Mills, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McCague: Why does the member for Niagara Falls not pay $10 and go fishing? In fact, if he will go fishing I will give him the $10.

Miss Stephenson: We will take up a collection.

Mr. G. I. Miller: We will put a line in wherever you like.

Mr. McCague: Yes, the member already has a sucker on it.

As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted, Dr. Don Smith says he is a family doctor who has been opted out of OHIP for more than five years. He goes on:

"In this period of time I have billed some patients according to the OMA schedule of fees and some according to the OHIP fee schedule. The determining of whom was billed according to which fee schedule has never been a difficult problem. It involved communication with my patients, sensitivity and erring on the side of caution. As all of these are involved in the practice of medicine it is not difficult.

"The present government somehow finds the application of this judgement distasteful. They allow me to use my judgement in treating my patients' medical problems, but are stating that I am incapable of making a similar judgement regarding my patients' ability to pay my bills." That is an excellent point.

Dr. Harrington, again of Collingwood—we have a lot of excellent doctors in Collingwood. As I told the member for Grey, half the time they are working for my constituents and half the time they are working for his constituents. Dr. Harrington says:

"I enjoy working in what I think is the best health care system in the world. The system is not perfect, and there are concerns with funding and waiting periods at hospitals for patients who are sick, but I think the current system works and is unequalled by any other in the world.

"Doctors will be forced to work in a system run by a government which has a very poor track record for maintaining access to the system, as evidenced by hospital bed shortages and long waiting lists for urgent operations. A patient in my practice suffered a heart attack in the last three months while waiting for bypass surgery, a heart attack which can be attributed to our government's inability to deal with providing adequate funding for access to services on an urgent basis."

Dr. Wagg mentioned: "The quality of medical care will gradually be lessened as the doctors try to see more patients and work longer hours to maintain an income to cope with higher expenses, a higher cost of living and higher taxes. Mistakes will be made, not tragic errors, which will result in higher costs to everyone, greater aggravation to patient and doctor and further erosion of the doctor-patient relationship already damaged by attacks of the government and the news media.

"Costs to everyone will rise as patients seek medical attention for minor things rather than coping with a bit of inconvenience. Costs to the medical system will increase as doctors practise defensive medicine to prevent abuse of their integrity by more and more medical-legal issues, aided by a publicly supported legal system led by lawyers who fan the flame of public distress of doctors, irritated by an abusive government and news media, whose abusive actions are condoned by a noncaring government and public.

"I believe the public has been deceived by the government. The government was the first to become angered, and literally walked out on the discussions, then stated that the doctors refused to negotiate."

I have a letter addressed to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) from Dr. Peter Savage of Collingwood.

Mr. McKessock: You have quite a few letters.

Mr. McCague: I do have quite a few letters. I could get copies for the member if he would like.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, is there not some rule about reading, some limitations?

The Deputy Speaker: It is permissible to read excerpts from letters and documents but not whole documents.

Miss Stephenson: Speak to the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) who read the telephone book for five hours at one point.

Mr. McCague: Before the dinner hour I did read a letter from Dr. Scott of Orangeville. It was an excellent letter and I must confess I read it word for word. I will give these letters to you, Mr. Speaker, to let you determine whether I read excerpts or the full letter. I suggest the latter.

As I was saying, there was a letter dated October 28, 1985 from Dr. Savage of Collingwood to the Minister of Health. I will not read any of it. I have one dated January 30, 1986 from Dr. Savage again, this time addressed to me. He says "I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern with regard to the current health care legislation. First, I think I should draw your attention to my letter of October 28, 1985 to the Minister of Health. At that time I expressed to him my concerns pertinent to the health care system, and I feel that it sums up my general feeling. If anyone would like to know what those are, I would be glad to show them the letter.

"It is interesting to note that Mr. Elston did not acknowledge this letter or respond to it. I find that surprising as any other politician I have ever written to has at least acknowledged a personal

letter that has been addressed to him." I find that revolting.

Earlier in my remarks I mentioned I was somewhat dismayed so few people in my riding had written on any side of the health care issue. I guess it is fair to say I have one letter which reads: "We the undersigned taxpayers respectfully request you and your party give your wholehearted support to completely ban extra billing by the medical profession in Ontario." That is signed by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tiemens of Box 52, Stayner, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Pickel, Box 115, Collingwood. That is all in the interest of presenting a balanced approach.

Miss Stephenson: Of course they want to co-operate. They do not want to co-operate with a gun to their heads. That is all he received.

Mr. McCague: I am giving the opinions I received as a member.

Interjections.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. McCague: The difference is I am prepared to listen to others who are not prepared to listen to me. I have another note from Mrs. M. A. Wallis, registered nurse, Tottenham, Ontario who says she is writing to express her outrage at the bill being presented to make extra billing by doctors illegal.

"These highly trained professionals work long hours and must keep their expertise up to date at all times. As a member of the nursing profession for 13 years, I have never heard of a patient being refused treatment by any doctor because he or she was unable to pay. Perhaps the government should investigate more appropriate OHIP fees rather than penalizing doctors who specialize in their field.

"Our health care system has deterioriated badly in the last 10 years because of budget cuts. It must not be allowed to deteriorate further. The bill to stop extra billing should be stopped."

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: They did not charge for the last 10 years.

Mr. Ashe: It was a postscript. She said at the end it was even worse in the last 10 years.

Miss Stephenson: The member is only providing some balanced input.

Mr. Speaker: I thought the member for Dufferin-Simcoe had the floor.

Mr. McCague: I think you are right, Mr. Speaker, but there is a lot of chirping.

My leader has made excellent points in several speeches regarding this bill. I know he will be speaking later next week as we address this bill and I will not repeat what he has said.

As I said before and will say again, this bill is politically motivated. There is not a doubt in the world about that.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is a revelation.

Mr. McCague: It is very clear to this party that the Liberal Party is prepared to spend more money to pacify the doctors than it will save by banning extra billing. They are stubbornly proceeding with this bill and we know and they know that in committee they are going to capitulate. They are going to do it to try and make themselves look good with the doctors. They will not get away with it.

It is our job as an opposition to point out to the public that there is short-term gain for the government in return for long-term pain, and I mean that. The government is not presenting the whole case to the public out there.

Interjection.

Mr. McCague: I guess they do. Dr. Young in Alliston does, he is a veterinarian.

We should endeavour to resolve the extra-billing issue fairly and equitably and with complete information to the public. We should resolve it in a way that will meet the needs of both the doctors and citizens of the province, not the needs, desires and whims of the Liberal Party. If we have to appoint a royal commission we could do that. But why does the government not do the responsible thing, stand down the bill, decide it will negotiate in a fair and equitable manner with the doctors and stop the grandstanding?

Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and keep chirping.

Mr. Foulds: I want to join in this debate because it is an important one. A number of important issues have been raised during the course of the debate and a number have been raised out there in the public.

I want to address a couple of those concerns that have been raised and a couple of the arguments that have been put into the mix here in the Legislature.

I find one argument to be rather strange. We hear that in Ontario we have the best health care system in the world and we should not tamper with it; leave it the way it is. That is one theme we have heard from members of the official opposition.

The other theme they use to counterbalance that is this: We cannot tackle the problem of extra billing being an impediment to health care or accessibility unless we tackle all the problems of

accessibility. Then they go on with a long list of what is wrong with the health care system in the province.

There seems to be an inconsistency in that argument. We may have the best health care system in the world; I do not know. I think we have a darned good one. Everybody in this Legislature and this province thinks we have a pretty good health care system. All of us are conscious that it can do with improvements, and we can increase accessibility. I want to talk about that in a few minutes.

The second problem and the second reason this debate is important is that we are debating the rights of patients and the rights of doctors. In most cases, those two rights coincide. In some cases, they part. When it comes to the question of extra billing, the rights and interests of patients and doctors part company. It is in those circumstances that in a democracy a body like this has to make a tough decision about adjudicating the rights and wrongs of those divergent interests.

The third point has been raised a number of times, especially in letters from, if not uninformed, somewhat biased doctors about the British health care system. We are told about the horrors of the British system. I do not want to apologize for the British health care system in 1985, but let me relate two personal stories about it in 1952 and 1959, soon after it was implemented and running relatively smoothly.

A young Canadian woman, a friend of mine resident in Britain in 1952, found herself to be severely ill with a lung disease, which in 1952 was very difficult to treat. It so happened she was living in London and was given access to the health care system. Without a question or a lot of bureaucratic red tape, she was given the best health care of the time in the world. Because of the British health care system at that time, she was given the world's top specialists in that disease. She is alive and well today, somewhat older, much wiser and a very productive member of our society.

8:50 p.m.

In 1959, a young Canadian from Thunder Bay happened to be travelling on a bicycle in northern Devon, in England; the bicycle happened to be on one of those hills in Devon, and it was raining. British bike brakes do not work all that well in the rain, because they are dependent on friction, and he crashed and smashed his leg. Immediately, he was taken to the local hospital. There was no bureaucratic red tape, no "where is your OHIP card or your social insurance card?" There was simply: "The doctor is in the operating room. As soon as he is out, he will see you," which is what happened. There was no need for that young man to be hospitalized. His leg was taped up, his bike was written off and he was sent back to London, where he had some friends with whom he could live while the leg recovered.

There was no undue burden on the health care system. There was no fee. Because I was that young man, I asked the people at the hospital, "Why do you not charge a fee?" They said, "The bureaucracy of taking down all the details, getting in touch with Canada through the Department of External Affairs and so on is not worth it." I suppose I had, in total, about an hour of direct, precise tests.

While we hear about the horrors of the British health care system, there are and have been many good things about the British health care system and about so-called socialized medicine. The word "socialized" is thrown around as if it were a dirty word. Socialized medicine simply means medicine that is available to all the social classes of our society. That is all it is.

The Ontario Medical Association has not served its membership well in this whole dispute. I do not believe it has served the public well. It has escalated the battle to fever pitch on its side when it was not necessary. It has also escalated the official opposition to some kind of frenetic pitch, which was not necessary. If anything has brought the medical profession and its credibility into question, it has been the tactics of the Ontario Medical Association, aided and abetted by the tactics of the Progressive Conservative Party. Frankly, it is about time both of those very traditional institutions made themselves aware of the realities of the 1980s and of the 20th century.

We all recognize that things are wrong with the health care system. We all recognize that there are other impediments to accessibility. Geography is an impediment to accessibility. I fought a battle for two and a half years to try to reduce that impediment to accessibility to the health care system.

We all recognize that poverty is an impediment to accessibility to the health care system. We know that fear and ignorance are also impediments. People are often afraid of illness and will not seek help. We know that the bottlenecking in emergency wards, chronic care patients using acute treatment beds and self-inflicted environmental attacks on ourselves and on our own wellbeing, whether it be by acid rain, smoking or a whole host of industrial diseases,

are all impediments to accessibility to the health care system.

I recognize that a number of things are wrong and need to be improved. However, in this bill we are dealing with only one inhibiting factor to accessibility to the health care system, and that is the factor of extra billing.

I rise to support this bill. I will state clearly not only here but across the province, to my own medical practitioners and to those in the back behind the seats who are heckling, that extra billing does restrict access to some people some of the time.

Let me give a couple of examples. We all know only a small number of doctors are opted out. In my part of the province in northern Ontario, very few doctors are opted out. Why am I concerned about this? Why is this an important issue for me? We know that in some areas, all specialists are opted out. For example, all obstetricians in the town of Guelph are opted out. If one has a community where even one specialist or one specialty is opted out, then one has an accessibility problem for the people of that community.

More important, we have made some progress since the change in government with respect to getting people of the north accessibility to the fine facilities here in southern Ontario. People can now travel for medically necessary reasons and get that travel reimbursed. What happens, however, is that when those people come from northern Ontario and are referred to a specialty here, they are often referred by necessity to an opted-out doctor. Therefore, they have to pay the extra fee.

We have had read into the record a number of letters by the official opposition. There are just a couple which I would like to read parts of into the record. These people have said that I can use the case, the name and so on. This letter says:

"Dear Jim,

"This is the report I promised you as a result of our conversation over the phone in Toronto in late November"–this person phoned me when he was here in late November–"concerning the extra billing for medical services rendered during my nine-year-old son's eye operation at Mount Sinai Hospital on November 22, 1985."

He goes on to outline the extra fee which amounts to 32 per cent on one charge and 100 per cent extra on the second charge. He points out that that meant being out of pocket about $700 in financial terms. He says:

"My concern is with the extra billing. The surgeon informed me prior to the operation that these extra charges would be made. With my son's eyesight in his skilled hands, I did not feel that this was an appropriate time to register a philosophical objection to extra billing. What we have here is a not-so-subtle case of blackmail.

"An additional concern regarding the extra billing issue generally is the effect on collective bargaining as it pertains to fringe benefit clauses. My union negotiators bargained for and won an excellent deal for us during negotiations; for example, 100 per cent payment of employees' OHIP premiums. Our negotiators believed this to be a valuable benefit to pursue, and other contract goals may have been ranked lower as a result.

"What we have with extra billing is doctors robbing many unions of their employee benefits. I must say that the doctors do not hold all the blame here. The government has to be considered a culprit in dragging its heels. A happy medium must be found."

9 p.m.

Then he wrote a very touching covering note about his son who is receiving treatment, indicating that the boy hopes to be able to become an eye surgeon. His respect for the medical profession is high. This is not an attempt to damage or to attack the professional reputation of doctors. I wish both the doctors and the Conservative Party would understand that.

Another letter was from a person in Thunder Bay. It said: "After repeatedly reading in the newspaper these days that opted-out doctors are charging a token amount above the OHIP schedule, you might be interested in taking a look at the enclosed bills. Our dentist referred our doctor to the oral surgeon in Thunder Bay for the removal of four impacted wisdom teeth. This operation was done at St. Joseph's Hospital.

"The doctor, as an opted-out doctor, charged us $440 for the operation and an additional $30 for an X-ray in his office three weeks before. OHIP refunded us $247.80 for the extraction of the four teeth and I am trying to recover the $30 for the X-ray from our dental insurance company.

"However, the nonrecoverable portion between the OHIP fee and the doctor's actual charge for the surgical procedure was $192.20. That consists of a surcharge of 77.5 per cent above the OHIP schedule. The expression 'token amount' is hardly appropriate for this gouging charge."

Miss Stephenson: OHIP covers only 40 per cent of dental surgery.

Mr. Foulds: It seems to me that the interjection from the very knowledgeable member for York Mills is well taken. If the OHIP fee does not cover an adequate amount, surely it is the obligation of the Ontario Medical Association to negotiate an adequate fee on behalf of its membership.

The OMA cannot have it both ways. If it wishes to negotiate an OHIP fee schedule on behalf of the medical profession, then it should do so in good faith. No other union and no other bargaining agent can bargain a wage scale or fee scale and then allow its members not to abide by that collective agreement.

Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, do you see a quorum?

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

9:08 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: I want to thank the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague) for requesting the quorum so more of his colleagues could come to listen to the few modest remarks I have to make in support of Bill 94.

Very simply, I support the bill because I believe we should take what steps we can to improve access. I do not see this as a magic solution to all access problems, but it will improve access. I think it will dramatically improve access in some cases.

We have heard a lot of talk during the debate, both in public by the OMA and in the Legislature by the Conservative Party, about interfering in the doctor-patient relationship, that somehow banning extra billing interferes in that relationship. I do not think anybody in our society who has any sensitivity at all would want to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship when it comes to the professional skill of the doctor and the illness of the patient.

This bill does not do that. I simply do not see how extra billing, how having the right to charge on top of what the union negotiates, on top of what the OMA has negotiated for doctors, how being able to charge more than they said they would charge under OHIP, strengthens or ensures the professional relationship between doctor and patient.

I readily admit that this bill is restrictive. It restricts the financial relationship between the doctor and his or her patient. It does restrict the money relationship between a doctor and his or her patient. Does anyone seriously believe, however, that this will lessen the professionalism that a medical practitioner brings to the relationship between himself or herself and his or her patient? For example, do nurses give less professional service and care at their level of the health care system because they are on salary? Certainly not. Do doctors on salary, do interns give less dedicated and professional service than doctors who extra bill? Certainly not.

It is a very simple principle both of professional health ethics and of our system—and that is one of the glories of it—that it is the obligation of every health care professional to give absolutely the best service he or she is capable of at the moment that service is needed. This bill does not restrict that in any way, shape or form.

Let us readily admit that society as a whole owes a lot to doctors, to the medical profession, for care, for research, for comfort and for good health. In many ways, doctors save the vast majority of us who are lucky enough to live in this society from a lot of pain. They save us from a lot of disease and from a lot of debilitating life. Some of us may even owe our lives to doctors.

However, doctors also owe something to society, if I may say so, and I do say so. Society has paid for and given them a lot of training. Society traditionally has paid and given them a lot of respect. Society has paid for and given them most of the facilities they use: hospitals, computerized axial tomography scanners and specialist equipment.

In return, by and large, doctors get a pretty good financial return. The average income I have seen estimated for 1980-81 is about $84,000. That is not bad. It is more than most of us make. It is more than the vast majority of the patients make.

So what are we trying to do? What we are trying to do is to strike a balance. What we are in a very modest way trying to achieve with the health care system in this province and what we are trying to achieve in a very modest way, one small step, with this bill is to meet a principle I happen to think is a very good principle, the principle of from each according to his ability, to each according to his work. That is the principle we have established.

Doctors have a lot of power and a lot of respect in our society. In many cases, they have responsibility as well as power over our health, our lives and our physical wellbeing. The question then becomes, should they have power over other things? Should they have the power to judge our financial circumstances and whether we have the economic ability to pay an extra fee?

My answer to that question is no. Skilled though they may be in their own profession, skilled though they may be in medical practice, I do not think they have the skill to judge whether

someone has the financial resources to pay an extra fee. Nor do I believe they should have the right to assess that fee and establish it at the moment when the patient is most vulnerable, that is, when he or she feels ill and is seeking help.

This bill has been called an act of terrorism against the OMA. If it is an act of terrorism against the OMA, then the OMA does not have the backbone I thought it had. Is it a totalitarian act as it is being charged it is? I think I have even heard that dreaded word "communistic" used about the act. It is that kind of rhetoric, that kind of unnecessary, inflammatory talk that does our society, this debate and the medical profession no good at all.

What does the bill do? It prohibits a practice known as extra billing. It does restrict a certain financial procedure or method by the medical profession. It does not restrict the medical practice, the medical judgement, the professional judgement of doctors in any way, shape or form. It does not intervene between the judgement of the medical practitioner and his or her patient.

In my humble view, therefore, I submit this is not a totalitarian or authoritarian act, but it is a restrictive act. Then the question becomes whether society has a right to restrict in this way. That is what the argument of freedom put forward by the medical profession and by the Conservative Party comes down to.

By and large in our society, we have come to the conclusion that we do have the right to restrict certain activities if it results in a good, not merely for one small group but for society as a whole. I suggest that by restricting the practice of extra billing we achieve the result of a positive good.

Not only do those who might have been inhibited from or impeded in access to the health care system benefit, but society as a whole also benefits, because those individuals who might have been restricted in their access to the health care system have increased ability, as a result of receiving health care, to contribute to society in a much fuller way than they otherwise would have done.

It is the old principle established and enunciated so well by John Donne in the 17th century when he said: "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thy own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

9:20 p.m.

Even if there were a million-to-one chance that the inefficiency of extra billing would prevent some poor soul through ignorance from seeking help, from seeking access–and it might be ignorance on the part of both the practitioner and the patient–if this bill prevents that from happening and a person's life is saved, then it will be worth it restricting the financial method by which the doctor now can practise; not his medical ability, not his medical practice and not his professional skill, but the method by which he or she can extra charge.

I did not intend to speak this long. However, I do want to say that I have received a copy of a letter from the Thunder Bay and District Health Coalition to the Legislature's standing committee on social development in which it supports Bill 94. I will not go into detail because the submission will undoubtedly be before that committee. It says, "The Thunder Bay and District Health Coalition hopes that the legislation in a strengthened form, to ensure that its purposes cannot be subverted, will be passed into law speedily."

The bill we have before us is a reasonable bill. It is not an unnecessary bill. I admit it does not tackle all the health care problems; it tackles one and does so effectively and well. Let us get on with passing it. Let us discuss it in committee and see what amendments are necessary.

Miss Stephenson: I rise to join this debate, with grave concern for the future of the health care system in the province and for the future health of the citizens of Ontario, and with great anxiety about the continuing viability in Ontario of parliamentary democracy and the individual freedom upon which it is founded.

On Thursday, February 6, my classmates and I, the 130 or so who still survive, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our graduation from the faculty of medicine at the University of Toronto. For four decades we have been proud physicians and have felt privileged to have provided expert care in Ontario, across Canada and in some parts of the United States. As free members of a noble profession, we have been dedicated to public service because that is the primary role of physicians.

The current government wants to change all that because it believes it is politically popular and expediently sexy for the government to do so. It apparently believes that being re-elected is far more important than doing that which is right, proper or best for Ontario and its citizens. The elimination of individual freedom is the principle

of this bill. The seizure of total control of the health care system by politicians is its objective and statism is its goal.

The destruction of the profession of medicine, which is inherent in this bill, is a giant step in the direction of total state control of all aspects of our lives. Do you not wonder, Mr. Speaker, how long it will be, if they are permitted to do this to the profession of medicine, before they unilaterally tell all the architects how they can practise, where they can practise and how much they can earn, and almost any other group in society as well.

I think one of the problems is there is inherent within this coalition in the Legislature of Ontario an anti-intellectualism and antiprofessionalism that is becoming rampant. It might be wise for the members of this House to be aware of the history of the learned professions and what they have meant to society, because the profession of medicine is indeed an honourable and a learned profession. It is important within this province because it is upon that foundation that the health care systems of our society have been built.

Self-governing professions have had a long and important role in the history of western European society and North American society. It was during the reign of Henry I, between 1068 and 1135, I would remind members, that the first glimmers of self-governance of a profession appeared. The profession of law was the first to win the right of self-government, and its experience set the pattern for medicine, for engineering and for all others. As the member for St. David (Mr. Scott) knows, until Henry came along, all the lawyers were priests administering canon law in the ecclesiastical courts.

Hon. Mr. Scott: What did the doctors do?

Miss Stephenson: They were priests as well.

An hon. member: They were barbers.

Miss Stephenson: No, the surgeons were barbers. The physicians were priests.

In 1113 Henry initiated the establishment of common law throughout England, as distinct from local or canon or Roman law. At this point the lawyers began to move out of the priory and into the public, and they set in motion the process from which evolved the concept and the fact of self-governing professions.

Henry II, who was the first Henry's nephew, consolidated the common law system and established the Court of Common Pleas in 1178 to hear all those matters that did not directly affect the crown. By 1300 the lawyers who dealt with common law had totally separated themselves from both the church and the king, founded the inns of court, and became the first recorded self-governing profession.

During the next two centuries medicine began to evolve in a similar pattern into a similar self-governing profession.

We all know there have been monumental changes in the level of knowledge and skill of both laymen and professionals during the intervening centuries. However, the unique relationship that these self-governing professions have shared with society since that period is in fact a social contract not unlike the relationship that Jean-Jacques Rousseau envisioned should exist between the public and its government.

Essentially, society, or the body public, has delegated the responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the members of the profession to the professional body, and in the case of medicine in this province that is the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. In exchange for this, the profession has assumed as its primary responsibility service to the public for its benefit and for the protection of society. This mutually acceptable exchange of responsibilties and rights between the professions and society is indeed a social contract that has greatly benefited both parties.

Perhaps one of the concerns we have about this bill might be addressed if there were less lack of understanding of the concept of real professionalism. The widespread slovenly misuse of the word "profession" in appellation of a multitude of human labours has distorted the import and, I believe, the essence of professionalism in the public mind and, from time to time I have a terrible suspicion, within the professional's mind as well.

What is a profession? I had asked that question of one of my mentors many years ago and was given a definition that I would like to share with members. A profession is a vocation founded on prolonged and specialized education and training that enables an expert service to be provided. The members of a profession are bound together in a common discipline, dedicated to service to the public, linked by a spirit of fraternity and committed individually and collectively to the scholarship necessary to increase and improve the body of knowledge upon which the discipline is based.

The professional practitioner deals on an individual basis with clients or patients in a close relationship, not at arm's length. The rule of caveat emptor cannot in fact apply when the expert practitioner is providing his or her services to the layman, because the consumer of that

service is an individual in need of that service and not an opponent in the game of trade.

Hon. Mr. Scott: How about teachers?

9:30 p.m.

Miss Stephenson: Teachers are professionals as well. I have been trying to persuade them to become self-governing professionals for some time.

Hon. Mr. Scott: They contract to the state.

Miss Stephenson: That is because there was a poor law introduced in this province in 1943, which needs to be rescinded.

The professional practitioner expects to provide service to everyone and expects some of that will be provided gratuitously. He does not expect financial gain for every single service, in spite of the fact lawyers charge for telephone calls. The professional is ever mindful of his duty to sustain the honour and integrity of his profession in all conduct. I believe firmly, and have believed for all the 40 years I have been a member of this profession, the members of a profession must not, should not, and in fact do not simply maintain the standard of morality and ethics generally accepted by society. They are expected to strive to practise at levels superior to those commonly followed within general intercourse.

The responsibilities of professionals are formidable. They must establish the criteria for selection of candidates to the preparatory educational program and the form and content of that program. They must be involved in the process of evaluating student performance in the admission of graduates to the profession, and they must now–this is new and something in which the medical profession has led all the others–provide programs of continuing education to maintain the competence of their members and the stimuli to encourage participation in those programs. Upgrading is a significant responsibility of each professional.

They must ensure there is reasonable emolument for the services the profession provides. They must maintain a vigilant surveillance of the service provided by all members of the profession and, where necessary, discipline. Each member of the profession has that kind of responsibility, not just to fulfil the daily requirements of an ethical professional practitioner, but to assist the profession itself in the discharge of its onerous duties.

In the eyes of the public, discipline is probably the most important duty of the profession. Public reprimand or cancellation of the licence or ability to practice of a fellow professional is probably the most painful task the profession has to carry out, but it has to be done and is done. Abscission of an unethical or incompetent member is absolutely essential for the protection of the public generally, of the profession's present and future patients or clients and all those who would be affected by that professional's work. The right and responsibility to discipline itself to protect the public, painful as it is, is the keystone of a self-governing profession and an integral part of the social contract between the profession and the public. That must be maintained.

The self-governing professions are the bulwark of our social system. They are a vital cornerstone of a democratic society. One might suggest a self-governing profession is a visible example of the successful and fruitful marriage of principled personal independence with dedication to public service which provides an effective barrier against the ever-possible threat of tyranny by the state. I hope my colleagues in this House will recall that threat is ever-present, no matter how benevolent the state is. In our society, there is nothing a politician abhors more than a policy vacuum.

The worth of the contribution of the self-governing professions to the development of society in the western world is incalculable. The quality of our lives has gained immeasurably from it. If one destroys the self-governing professions, one dismembers society. That is precisely what the reaction of the members of the medical profession is to this bill which has been introduced by the Minister of Health. In 40 years, I have never seen the kind of reaction I am seeing and hearing now among my colleagues. Quiet members of the academic teaching staff in all our faculties of medicine are absolutely livid that the Minister of Health would dare to introduce with Bill 94 something that could amputate the legs upon which this profession stands for no reason other than political expediency.

I remind the members of this House that the self-governing professions have been the instigators and initiators of most of the advances in our society, certainly in this country. In medicine I will name only a very tiny number of the huge list of activities begun by the medical profession that have benefited society as a whole.

I mention only such things as the purification of water supplies; the distribution of pure milk; the system of public health, which I hope the members of this society realize in Ontario is one of the best in the world; and immunization against exanthemata, which has been a cornerstone of the public health system in this province

and has made Ontario one of the safest places in the world to raise children.

One other item I should mention is the strong support of doctors for the introduction of the concept of prepaid medical care insurance in 1922. There is nothing original in the thought that the NDP dreamed up the prepayment of medical care in order to provide for protection against catastrophic or chronic illness. In fact, the medical profession introduced the concept at the federal level in the very early 1920s, but it was not taken up at that time. I do not understand why. I believe we would have had a resolution of most of the problems by this time and we would not be facing silly legislation such as that which has been introduced here.

I also remind members of this House that in the early 1930s it was the medical profession in conjunction with the then provincial government that established the first program to ensure that health care, and particularly hospital care because it was much more expensive, was provided to those who were without reasonable financial means during the very difficult times of the Depression.

The medical profession administered that program with very limited sums of money made available by the provincial government and no thought for the level of remuneration that would be achieved by the members of the profession. There was no two-tiered system of health care, because every patient received the best possible care at all times whether or not they could pay. That has always been the history of the profession of medicine.

Prepaid health care insurance for the protection of the public was introduced very early in Ontario. In the early 1940s, Associated Medical Services Inc. was begun by a physician in this province and was one of the forerunners of health insurance programs. In 1946, Physicians' Services Inc. was founded by the physicians of Ontario to serve large groups and individuals, providing protection against catastrophic costs and very shortly against most of the costs of health care.

In the beginning, the provision of a very wide range of services was envisioned and introduced. Physicians subsidized that program from the beginning, providing five per cent of all billings each month in support of the administration of the program. In addition, they provided five per cent to ensure that the program would continue.

9:40 p.m.

In effect they agreed that 90 per cent of the schedule of fees set by the OMA–an activity that was carried out by that professional group as it is by other professional groups–was acceptable to those physicians who participated in Physicians' Services Inc., and to those who did not participate as well. This program was constantly monitored to ensure that no misuse or abuse occurred by both professionals and lay members of the board of Physicians' Services Inc. As a result, it was an extremely successful health care insurance program which was copied in all the other provinces of Canada.

When it was found either patients or physicians were abusing or misusing the program, appropriate remedies were initiated. Physicians were treated very roughly at times and patients were reprimanded rather than anything else. It became a very good model for all the other provinces. It was the model for the introduction of the Ontario medical services insurance plan, which some members will recall.

By 1966, about 80 per cent of all the people of this province were covered by some form of health insurance, except for those who were elderly and had pre-existing illnesses or were unable to buy the premiums because they were not working or were retired. With the cooperation of the physicians of Ontario, OMSIP was introduced to ensure there would be protection for that group as well. The government underwrote the insurance program and the physicians of the province guaranteed they would look after all those patients in the same way they did PSI patients and at the same rate of remuneration.

By 1968, when the Pearson government decided it was going to introduce the Health Services Act throughout Canada, Ontario had insurance coverage for medical services of almost 98 per cent of all its citizens, some of them under private insurance, some under PSI, and those who had difficulty in acquiring that insurance were insured by government insurance called OMSIP.

Unhappily, the federal Liberal government did not like that arrangement and was very adamant. It refused to accept Ontario's multifaceted management and economically sound program. This province was blackmailed into participation in the federal system when Lester Pearson informed John Robarts, great Canadian that he was, that unless Ontario came into it he was going to cancel the plan for all of Canada. In addition, Ontario taxpayers would not receive the benefit of the $163 million–what a paltry sum that seems now–the Ontario taxpayers contributed to the federal government through their taxes

for the support of a health care program. He was going to withhold that from Ontario. The politicians of the day were upset about this and decided they had to fall into line with the concepts which were then being put forward in Ottawa.

This was a program with a somewhat socialistic base which insisted that it be entirely managed by bureaucrats. There could not be any flexibility which would permit the introduction or participation of insuring agencies outside government control. It would have to have first-dollar coverage in all instances, but it would have absolutely no way of ensuring there was no abuse, misuse or inappropriate use of the system because there would not be any mechanism for that.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Was John Robarts right or wrong?

Miss Stephenson: Philosophically, I think he was right for the wrong reasons. He should never have been blackmailed by Lester Pearson and should not have bent quite so far as he did.

Hon. Mr. Scott: He did the right thing, did he not?

Miss Stephenson: No, he did not. I think it probably would have been better if he had done part of the right thing and part of the wrong thing.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Like the egg; good in part and bad in part.

Miss Stephenson: Yes; and the member can eat all of it, that will be just fine.

One thing that was insisted upon was universality. Speaking as someone who was actively involved in the devolution of this entire program within Ontario, universality was never defined. We asked succeeding Ministers of National Health and Welfare please to define universality for us. Ontario asked the federal government to define universality. Finally, Monique Bégin, in her review of the Canada Health Act, decided universality meant every single physician within Canada had to be an employee of his or her provincial government to function within the plan. That was Monique Bégin's definition of universality.

In Ontario, there had been an arrangement that was reasonable and was the basis on which the profession of medicine functioned within the program established. Physicians could participate in OHIP, and if they did they had to participate totally. They could not, as they did in other provinces such as Saskatchewan, decide on a case-to-case basis, on the basis of the income of the individual, whether they were going to be in the plan or outside of the plan. That was not good.

In Ontario, you had to be all in or all out. Nonparticipating physicians were required, and agreed readily, to provide all of the information necessary to OHIP in order that the patient could receive all of OHIP's benefits, but they would bill the patient directly. If the patient decided to pay them, fine; if they did not decide to pay them, that was it as well.

There were fluctuating percentages of physicians within the province who determined they would remain out of OHIP, and I have talked to almost all of them. The reason for their nonparticipation is very clear. They feel strongly that they are a part of a free profession with the right to determine whether they will participate or not in OHIP. They will never, in any way, jeopardize the patient's right to receive full benefits from the insurance plan, but they will ensure that they remain free professionals providing quality health care to their patients.

At the time this was instituted, the plan paid, again 90 per cent of the Ontario Medical Association fee schedule. The physicians agreed to that, because they felt they were really subsidizing the program, that they were following the pattern which they had established in the Physicians' Services Inc.

It was fine, I suppose, in the beginning, that that 90 per cent was the payment from OHIP; but it should be clear to all of the members of this House that what is discussed or negotiated with that negotiating team made up of members of the OMA and members of the Ministry of Health, with an independent chairman, is not the Ontario Medical Association's schedule of fees–which that free profession has the right to establish just like any other free profession does–but the OHIP schedule of benefits, which does not necessarily relate very directly to the OMA schedule of fees. In fact, that relationship has become increasingly divergent within the past five years.

That our profession continues to establish its schedule of fees is, of course, the correct thing for it to do. That is one of the responsibilities it has. What is being eroded now is the right of that profession, not only to exercise that responsibility but to practice that responsibility. That is a signficant part of a profession's responsibility and this bill is going to eliminate that completely.

This bill makes it a criminal act to abide by the profession's fee schedule if the fee for any act of medical care differs from the benefit allowed by the government under OHIP, as determined primarily by the budgetary directions of the

government of the day. This bill brands as a criminal any physician who does deviate. Felony is not a part of the traditional role of physicians, and being so branded is certainly not one of the positions that the medical profession of this province deserves.

9:50 p.m.

This bill is an act of conscription of physicians into service as prescribed by the Minister of Health, in other words, to become employees of the government of Ontario. In doing that, I believe the government will ensure the transition of a responsible, free, totally committed profession in this province into a trade union such as we see in the USSR and in East Germany.

Those who liken the Ontario Medical Association to a trade union should be aware of the fact that membership within the Ontario Medical Association is entirely voluntary. Of the 17,000 physicians in Ontario, 15,000 are voluntarily members of the Ontario Medical Association, and the decisions of the OMA council are not binding upon individual members. The clout the OMA has, if it has any, arises as a result of its logical arguments and moral suasion and nothing else. It has no authority to demand that its members do what it asks at any time. The association is entirely voluntary.

This bill will not provide funds for other health care initiatives, for if the physicians are forced out of their professional mould–as they surely will be if this bill is enacted–the ensuing structure will negotiate conditions of work, as the minister was wont to say today, that ordinarily would be negotiated in any labour-management discussion.

If they do negotiate such things as conditions of work, hours of work will be one of the first things to be negotiated. Most of my colleagues are, at this point, working on behalf of patients 60 hours a week and on behalf of the hospitals or the delivery of health care for at least another five hours, on average, every week, at no remuneration at all. So they will begin to be concerned about negotiating their hours of work. They will not want, in true labour-management fashion, to work longer than 40 hours a week.

If that is so, there must be a dramatic increase in the number of physicians in this province to provide even the level of service which is available now. We will have to provide for at least an additional 7,000 physicians, almost immediately but certainly over the next several years, by enlarging our medical schools.

I remind the members that the medical schools of this province were willing to do that back in the 1970s, but the then Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, decided that the cost of too many physicians was something more than he could bear. He made a request to freeze admissions to medical schools, which was acceded to by ministers of health across Canada.

During these intervening 10 years, the only province that has abided by that is Ontario. There has not been a significant increase in admissions to medical schools and therefore there has been a limitation upon the number of graduates.

All that will have to change. The position the Liberal Minister of National Health and Welfare took in 1975 will be turned around completely by the provincial government at a much higher cost, because significantly more doctors will have to be educated within this province. We also will have to increase the immigration of a large number of physicians, another position which the federal Liberal government cut off about 10 years ago.

There is no doubt the medical union which will be established will demand a premium for overtime and for weekends, as is the usual pattern. They will demand payment in full for all the time they spend in committee work ensuring that the hospitals of this province run effectively and efficiently. They will also demand full payment for teaching at the universities, which is something the physicians in this province have never done. Unless they were full-time staff members, they have never been paid at the level of teachers, lecturers or assistant professors, any other faculty member, is paid within this province.

Undoubtedly, they would ensure–and very correctly so–that in their negotiations the benefits which they now provide themselves out of their incomes, such benefits as health and dental insurance programs and retirement programs, would be part of the salary negotiation.

It is my understanding that in most labour union contracts this year, that program accounts for about 25 per cent of the total pay package. It will be evident that the $50 million the government says it has introduced its bill to acquire will be dissipated overnight as a result of the insensitive movement of the government in the direction of attempting to bludgeon the medical profession in this province into some kind of total, prostrate submission.

The medical profession in this province is one of the most progressive groups in our society in terms of benefit to society. To my knowledge, they have not impeded the enhancement of health

care in any way in Ontario. Those few physicians, 12 per cent, who are nonparticipating, do not extra bill as the government is wont to call it; I would like it to call it balanced billing, because what they are doing is billing, when they do it, at the level of the Ontario Medical Association fee schedule, which is their right as a free profession in this province.

The members of this profession who are opted out do not cost this province large amounts of money. If one looks carefully at the information OHIP can provide, one will find that only five per cent of all the accounts submitted to OHIP have an additional bill attached to them. I know the Ontario Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario have said very clearly that there is a commitment on the part of the profession to ensure that anyone for whom balanced billing might be construed as a financial hardship will be totally protected and that it will never occur.

If the physicians are not to judge the financial status, as the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) feels they are not capable of doing–he feels they are capable of judging their medical state, but not their financial state–if he does not want the physicians to be given that responsibility, that is just fine. The profession has been asking for years that there be some kind of identification of the individuals whose premiums are partially or fully subsidized, so that the patients would never be embarrassed by being asked by an opted-out physician whether they could afford to pay anything.

I am also aware that there is grave concern about the fact that in some places all the obstetricians are opted out. That is a circumstance I do not find particularly surprising. Unhappily, the fee for full prenatal care and delivery for a patient is not one of the most glorious of the fees in the schedule established by the Ontario Medical Association. The concern of some obstetricians has been that too little value has been placed on this.

The concern that has been expressed about that problem is that patients who decide they want to have their normal pregnancy cared for by a specialist obstetrician have difficulty finding a specialist obstetrician who is not opted out. In actual fact, 90 per cent of all normal pregnancies never need to see a specialist obstetrician and there is no need for those patients to seek that care.

10 p.m.

The specialist obstetrician is not terribly interested in doing normal obstetrics. In all circumstances, he or she is much more interested in dealing with the abnormalities for which he or she has been trained than with dealing with normal pregnancies. However, if patients want to be delivered by a specialist obstetrician and insist on going to a specialist obstetrician, for which there is no good reason, then surely some kind of premium should be paid for that insistence.

I am not sure the individual who decides he wants to buy a Cadillac instead of a Volkswagen is going to be subsidized by the government to buy a Cadillac, and that is really what is being requested in this kind of circumstance in relation to obstetricians.

In all the years I have practised, I have never had any difficulty with a patient who had any kind of financial constraint in ensuring that that patient would never be extra billed by an opted-out specialist.

Mr. Grande: Balanced billing.

Miss Stephenson: Would the member just be quiet and stop chirping for a minute?

One of the roles of the family physician is to ensure that the welfare of that patient is looked after in all circumstances. All I have ever had to do was to telephone my colleague to whom I was referring the patient and simply say: "This patient is not to be billed. You will treat this patient at the level of your best care, but you will accept OHIP as full payment, will you not?" I have never yet been denied that request, not once.

If the family physicians of this province do carry out their responsibility in that way, there is no problem with referral to specialists who are opted out. However, that is one of the responsibilities of family physicians and it is one of the matters I would like to deal with specifically if some sensibility arises within the mind of the Minister of Health, if this bill is withdrawn or restored to the appropriate receptacle and if we can provide some kind of direction for the way in which we can protect all of those citizens who have concerns about extra billing.

It is unfortunate the Minister of Health is not here, because I would like to share with him some information I think is rather clear in other parts of western European society in relation to the right and the responsibility of physicians to practise either within the insurance program of those various states or countries or without it.

As the Speaker probably knows, in France private insurance has been available in a number of ways for about 28.8 per cent of all the services that are provided in France; in Germany it accounts for about 19.4 per cent of the medical-

surgical services provided; in Sweden, 10 per cent of the medical-surgical services provided, in the Netherlands, 21.5 per cent of all the services provided; and in the United Kingdom, 12 per cent. We are asking that five per cent be permitted within Ontario. Surely there is some understanding that the profession of medicine in Ontario is as responsible as it is in any of those jurisdictions.

One of the things that has been touted regularly in all of the discussions that have been heard in this House is the fact that the party to my left, which remains consistently to my left, states clearly that if we do not ban what they call extra billing, there will be two-tiered medicine.

I said before this evening and I will say again for the benefit of those who are within this House–and even the member for Port Arthur agrees–that the profession of medicine does not deliver two-tiered medicine. It delivers care at the best possible quality for every patient every time it must provide care for patients, and it does this without concern about the level of payment that is going to be achieved.

That has always been the tradition of medicine. It is now the tradition of medicine and it will continue to be unless this bill is passed into law. If that happens, I fear for that traditional concern for the maintenance of the highest quality of care in all circumstances, no matter what the financial condition of the patient.

The practitioners of medicine in this province are extremely honourable people. They are the people who have ensured that the health care system that this province enjoys is one of the top two in the world. I can say that without equivocation, having had the opportunity to visit 43 countries viewing their health care systems. That is a very high degree of success and quality, and it is because there has been co-operation, consultation and a good deal of participation by health care professionals in the planning and development of the health care system.

What is being proposed tonight ensures participation will be reluctantly provided and co-operation grudging in it submission to the program. The kind of co-operation we have seen in the past simply will not be present because the profession feels it is being singled out for unnecessary degradation by the Minister of Health.

He could correct all that if he would do as has been suggested and establish a brain trust–not a task force, there are enough of those–a committee of people made up of the providers and the consumers of health care, some of the really bright people we have in Ontario.

We have people who have helped establish health care systems in 20 other jurisdictions around the world because they have the expertise. We have people who are knowledgeable about consumers' rights and concerns here and in other places. We need to bring them together under the auspices of the Minister of Health to solve the problem of health care both now and in the future.

I must reiterate the statement so clearly made by my colleague the member for Dufferin-Simcoe. When all the people concerned with the delivery of health care in Ontario were polled by the Ontario Hospital Association–not the medical profession, I would remind members–they were asked to list matters of concern.

The kind of concern expressed by the socialists who have induced the Liberals to pursue it is way down on the list. It is not a matter of real concern because it is an impediment which can be corrected relatively easily and without this kind of difficult and totally draconian legislation.

The concerns expressed are about our ability to move into the 21st century with the kind of health care program that is necessary. The demographics we are facing are very significant. Within this century we have developed a specialty which has provided for a total turnaround of the infant death rate in the first year. In 1910, the death rate of children admitted to the Hospital for Sick Children, which was the first hospital for children in Canada and a very good institution, was nine out of 10.

In 1911, as a result of nutritional knowledge brought to that hospital by the speciality of paediatrics, the death rate had been turned around. Of 10 patients admitted with serious illnesses, nine were discharged. That is the kind of improvement in care we have been able to develop in a specialized area. The whole area of paediatrics and adolescent medicine in Ontario has been developed within one half of this century and has provided leadership throughout the world.

We can do the same thing in the area in which we must now be concerned, that is, the greying population, which includes all of us. We must be concerned because we are going to become the dominant group within our society, and our society must provide the health care system to meet the needs of that group. That whole demographic shift is one which must be looked at as logically, rationally and carefully as possible.

10:10 p.m.

I do not think any member of this Legislature wants to have rationing of the delivery of health care, as will happen unless we begin this kind of discussion. I do not think we want physicians to say one patient may have this but another may not because of the fact the first patient was more valuable to society than the other. We have to find a way to ensure that we can provide what is necessary for all our citizens. The greying of our population demands that we begin the examination and development of that kind of specialized service in which we can develop the kind of excellence we have in paediatrics and adolescent medicine.

We have within Ontario one of the most medically sophisticated populations in the world. People are inundated with information provided by all the latest medical journals, Cosmopolitan, Reader's Digest, Time and Newsweek. They all have medical columns, all of which report, usually prematurely and with rising expectation that is not entirely justified, the latest developments in the field of health care.

The sophistication of our population has increased dramatically, but it has not yet understood that all those things are not available immediately and that the demands that are made for very high-tech medicine are growing at a rate we are unable to afford with the present public funds and the present level of taxation.

In addition, we have made very significant advances in ensuring that there is an understanding of the responsibility for the maintenance of individual help on the part of each citizen. However, we have not done well enough in that area because we are at present seeing huge increases in lung cancer. We know there is an activity which, if curtailed, will ensure that number decreases slightly.

We are ensuring that there are increases in the numbers of very severe genetic diseases, which can be treated successfully, because we are prolonging the lives of many of those young people to the stage where they reproduce children who have the same genetic disease. We know we have to find ways to ensure there is some kind of honest, moral and ethical manipulation of genes to ensure that they can reproduce without reproducing the genetic difficulty.

These are the kinds of problems facing us and we are not addressing them. At this point, we are not even addressing the concern expressed right across this province that older patients who require just a little bit of tender loving care cannot be sent home to their families, because families do not have room or the kind of open-mindedness about that activity any more. They want that relative placed in some kind of institution or noninstitutional institution, that is, a place that does not look like an institution but is actually run as one. That whole area of personal responsibility is one we have not fostered very well.

These are the types of difficulties that have to be faced. These are the kinds of problems we must begin to address. Those are the problems that all the people surveyed by the Ontario Hospital Association listed as their primary concerns. The one the minister is addressing, simply because he is required to do so by the accord, is a nonissue which can be resolved almost overnight with very little difficulty.

I simply ask all the members of the Liberal caucus to read the remarks made by their very courageous colleague. The member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) made a rational, logical, unemotional and very knowledgeable submission on this whole subject. It is a matter which should be of interest to all of them. The presentation he made is one they should pay attention to because he is extremely knowledgeable and an expert in a number of areas of health care delivery.

I am speaking tonight not because I have concern about my future nor concern about the future of the Progressive Conservative Party; I have concern about the future of health care delivery in this province. I have concern about the health of the people of Ontario. I have grave concern about a profession I know well, which has provided the leadership that has made the quality of health care in this province what it is.

Do they want that kind of leadership to continue? Do they want to have the profession of medicine in this province functioning effectively as active participants, full co-operators and knowledgeable providers, in conjunction with the other providers in the development of the future programs for which this province could become noted, as it is now? Do they want the profession of medicine in Ontario to remain the guiding light for the development of health care, which it has been for most of Canada?

Do they want the faculties of medicine of this province to continue to teach, as they always have, the concept of selfless public service to the members of the student body within their faculties? Or do they want all of those who are currently in medical school to say, "These guys changed the rules before I even got through."

Do they want the future students to determine that what they are going to do is work a 32-hour

week and demand full payment, payment at the same level, because that is what everyone else does? That is the traditional position. One reduces the hours, but one does not reduce the income. Do they really want the additional cost without necessarily a great deal of increase in productivity? This will occur if they force the medical profession into the kind of mould the Minister of Health appears to want them to pursue.

I am not sure that is what he wants, but his actions and the actions of the government over the past several months would lead members of the self-governing professions to be very concerned about the minister's attitude and about whether he cares that those self-governing professions have provided the kind of direction which has made much of this country great. It has improved the status of the citizens of Ontario.

If the government cared, then why would it unilaterally take away the earned QC of many of the lawyers of this province? Many of them are very hurt by that. They did earn it. Why would they suggest the pharmacists of this province become simply counters of pills? Why would they not suggest the medical profession would not have to become employees of the provincial government–

Mr. McKessock: To save another $50 million.

Miss Stephenson: They are not going to save a cent. Why would they not suggest there could be an active co-operative participation between government and those professions in the development of new programs to solve the problems? Surely that is the kind of sensible direction any thoughtful sensitive government would pursue.

If it is going to save any large amount of money, I would be the first to say, "By all means, go ahead." I am not convinced. There is no evidence it will save a cent. The government will probably expend far more as a result of the action it is taking. It will not be to the benefit of the health care system nor the health of the people. It will be to the detriment of those people. A conscripted army does not provide the kind of service that a free and voluntary participating group within society, the members of which are proud to be a part of the group, will provide for the people of the province.

10:20 p.m.

The minister appears to have tunnel vision. Is his tunnel vision occasioned by direction of the first minister of the province? Is there the kind of vindictiveness and malice, seen by the profession in this legislation, which is motivating the Liberal Party to do this? Do the members really want to make the doctors of this province felons? Is that what their objective is? If not, I beg them to reconsider this bill, to suggest very strongly to the minister and the first minister to reconsider this bill.

I suggest very strongly to the minister and to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that it would be wise to cease and desist from the direction of this activity right now and to move to establish the group that will investigate with care, insight and incisiveness the problems that are really facing the health care delivery system within this province, and they have precious little to do with what the government calls extra billing. We all know that extra billing accounts for lack of accessibility in a minute number of situations– not a large number, a very minute number– which can be corrected very easily with a little co-operation from the government.

It will have a commitment on the part of the profession that it will ensure that no individual who has his OHIP premiums subsidized partially or totally will ever be the recipient of a bill beyond the level of OHIP payments. The physicians will commit themselves to receiving the OHIP payment as full and final payment for any service they provide for those individuals, and that is the only group in which there is any potential problem of inhibition.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: But they will decide it.

Miss Stephenson: They have already decided and they have made that kind of commitment.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No, they will decide those who will have their full premium paid.

Miss Stephenson: No, they will not decide.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Miss Stephenson: No, that is not decided by physicians. It is decided by government, as the member very well knows. The government determines who will have his premiums subsidized either partially or totally.

What I am saying is that the government will have a full commitment by the profession that this group will never, ever receive a bill. What they will receive is first-class care, as they always have, at the level of emolument that OHIP provides for physicians and for specialists. That commitment has been made. All that has to happen is for the government to let them know it is willing to do this.

But no, that is not the way the government goes. It brings out a bludgeon with a nail in it to hit the profession over the head, to beat it into submission to demonstrate that the government is

going to run the health care system, direct what care and services patients can have and decide how much the profession can be paid. Then, of course, it will decide exactly how much a carpenter can be paid for his services, how much a plumber can be paid for his services, how much a lawyer can be paid or an architect or anyone else. The government will make those decisions.

When the government starts on the road of removing the freedom and rights of self-governing professions, it has started on the road to total destruction of the freedom of individuals within the society.

Interjections.

Miss Stephenson: If the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) does not know that, then he has not learned very much in the 10 years he has been here. It is a very unfortunate situation.

Mr. McKessock: It is $9 billion.

Miss Stephenson: The member for Grey says $9 billion. I know that. The member for Grey seems to believe it all goes to doctors. He is wrong, wrong, wrong. It goes to the health care system. Most of it goes to hospitals.

Mr. McKessock: For the doctors to work.

Miss Stephenson: But they do not get paid from the amount of money that goes to hospitals. The hospital bill is a separate bill.

Mr. McKessock: Yes, but it helps them.

Miss Stephenson: Courthouses help lawyers and schoolhouses help teachers, do they not? The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) could never have functioned if the province had not supplied a schoolhouse for him to teach in, nor could the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) have. He had to have a schoolhouse in which to function, and so did the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney). The teachers did not supply that.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Hospitals are a lot more expensive than schools.

Miss Stephenson: They were not in the beginning, I can tell the member.

What the government really wants to do, I gather, is to make all the physicians in this province employees of the government of Ontario so it can direct their activities and the kind of care they can provide. If that is really what it wants, then I am terribly afraid there will be very significant destruction of the health care system in this province.

I hope the government will recognize that the road it has embarked on with this piece of legislation is a slippery slope down to the pit of total societal destruction. I am not exaggerating when I say that. If the Premier wants to suggest I am exercising hyperbole, he has not heard hyperbole until he hears the doctors of London tell him exactly what they think about the kind of legislation he is proposing to introduce.

I must admit that within the province, to my knowledge, there are approximately 140 physicians who disagree with the profession.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Publicly.

Ms. Gigantes: Secret ballot?

Miss Stephenson: No. There are many who are not saying anything who are terribly concerned about the fact that this piece of legislation has precious little to do with the improvement of health care delivery and has nothing to do with the concern that is being expressed by the members opposite and to my left, that all of this is related only to physicians' incomes.

Most of the physicians who are opted out at present would probably make one and a half times the money they make right now if they were opted in. That is a fact. They do not want to make more money. They want to preserve the freedom of a self-governing profession, which is what this government is removing with this legislation. If the members cannot see that, then I am afraid they are as tunnel-visioned, as myopic and as amblyopic as the minister appears to be.

That is unfortunate, because I believe the government is not in any way improving the health care system within this province. Surely that has to be our concern. In any legislative act in which we are involved, surely our primary objective should be not to make things worse for the people of Ontario. If we cannot do good, let us do as little evil as possible.

If the government wants to do as little evil as possible, then by all means it should withdraw this dreadful piece of legislation which will do nothing to improve the health or health care of the people of this province, a matter for which each one of us should have concern.

We should understand that although we may have responsibility, 123 of us do not have any of the expertise to provide the care that is necessary. The members of the Legislature cannot deliver health care and cannot ensure that the health of the people of this province is improved if they insist on denigrating those who deliver the health care program to the people of Ontario.

I ask members to consider very seriously what their role and their responsibility are in this matter. It is a matter of grave and real concern to the profession which has been the foundation of the quality health care system in this province. I

ask members, please, to reconsider seriously the kind of direction they are pursuing for the good of the health care system, for the health of the people and for the good of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Ottawa West. I presume he wants to adjourn the debate.

Mr. Baetz: I do want to adjourn the debate. Could I make one comment?

Mr. Speaker: We still have 60 seconds.

Mr. Baetz: One and a half minutes.

I simply want to say I hope that through the parliamentary assistant for the Minister of Health this tremendous address we have just heard on this very vital subject will get to the neophyte minister. We have heard here an outstanding address, something that drew on the history of health care services from way back. Nobody can speak in a more informed manner on that subject than the member for York Mills, who has addressed us tonight.

She has said quite honestly and factually that she has no personal axe to grind, but she speaks from her close acquaintance and association with the medical profession. All of us should consider very carefully what she has said. I do hope the neophyte minister hears all about it. I shall continue with my subject at the next sitting.

On motion by Mr. Baetz, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Official Report of Debates
Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Thursday, February 6, 1986
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, February 6, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

DEATH OF DR. PERCY VIVIAN

Mr. Sheppard: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: It is with great sadness I rise today to advise members of the Legislature of the passing of a former member of this House, Dr. Reginald Percy Vivian.

Dr. Vivian was the sole surviving member of George Drew's first cabinet when the Conservatives began their 42-year reign in 1943. Because at that time he was the only member at Queen's Park with professional training as a doctor, it seems only fitting that Dr. Vivian was named Minister of Health and Minister of Public Welfare.

He proceeded to lay out the groundwork for the public health care system we all benefit from today, and he also established the system of county health units. Other valued accomplishments included the establishment of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and a program of financial assistance to the Ontario hospital insurance plan.

Dr. Vivian was known not only for his dedication to health issues but also for his involvement in the education field. In 1968, he became involved in the development of a program for the early identification of kindergarten children's learning problems. Later, the Minister of Education provided financial assistance for the research of the program with Dr. Vivian as the supervisory official. The program was subsequently adopted by the Northumberland-Newcastle Board of Education along with 100 other boards across the province.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to echo the comments made by the honourable member to mark the passing of Dr. Vivian, Minister of Health beginning in 1943. I recall meeting him on a number of occasions and I was interested to read the account of his career in the daily press a few days ago. I know he has been admired for his initiatives, and we also want to pass on our condolences to his family.

In the reports, I was particularly interested to read that among the 22 points that are still waiting to be acted upon was the promise to introduce denticare. I thought it might be interesting to keep that in mind.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Ms. Caplan: I want to bring the honourable members up to date on our program to improve the terms of employment for eligible part-time members of the Ontario public service.

Effective January 1, we put measures into effect which extend access to a wide range of working conditions and benefits to regular part-time unclassified employees in jobs which qualify for conversion to the classified service. Employees in converted positions will have access to a wide range of working conditions and prorated benefits similar to those available to our existing classified staff.

The improved package of benefits includes seniority, salary increments within the range, health benefits, vacation leave and statutory holidays, special leaves, basic life insurance and supplementary insurance and other benefits which apply to classified members of the Ontario public service.

The new status of regular part-time employment that we have introduced into the Ontario public service was recently cited by an arbitrator as a model for employers who employ part-time staff.

Implementation of this program began in mid-November 1985, after the board of arbitration's acceptance of the government's proposal to extend improved working conditions and benefits to those regular part-time employees who qualify under specific criteria.

Ministries are currently completing reviews of each of their existing part-time unclassified jobs to determine which jobs meet the criteria established for conversion to the classified service.

These are two criteria being applied: First, required work must be performed on a year-round, ongoing and continuous basis; second, hours of work for the job must be regularly scheduled and must be either fewer than full-time but not fewer than 14 hours per week, or fewer than 20 full days but not fewer than nine full days during a period of four consecutive weeks.

The criterion for the hours of work was developed and agreed to during negotiations between Management Board as the employer and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union on behalf of employees. A part-time job that meets both of these criteria will be converted to the status of a regular part-time position in the classified service.

I suggest that part-time unclassified employees who believe they meet the necessary criteria discuss their status with their immediate supervisor or with their human resources branch if they have not yet been informed by their ministries.

As I said previously in the House, I strongly encourage the honourable members to provide me with details of specific cases that are of concern. I will have my staff inquire into the matter and I will inform the member as quickly as possible.

I am pleased with the progress we have made in implementing this progressive program. I believe this is a long step towards the government's objective of ensuring equality of treatment and fair compensation throughout the public service.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Premier. The Premier will now see that there is a growing degree of unrest in the health care system, thanks to legislation the government has introduced on extra billing.

Given that the Ontario Medical Association has indicated a willingness to negotiate all issues of accessibility, including provisions to guarantee access to any medical procedure for seniors and those who are financially disadvantaged and provisions to address any geographic and linguistic barriers to access that may currently exist, will the Premier now consider accepting the OMA's invitation to negotiate these matters of accessibility and will he agree, once the House adjourns until April, that he will allow the bill to stand where it is today and actually negotiate with the OMA?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would be delighted to sit down with the OMA at its pleasure, at its time, to discuss issues that are important with respect to accessibility and, indeed, some of the long-term problems in the health care system. As a matter of fact, I have been seeking that meeting with them for a long time.

I would also be delighted to sit down and discuss with them the question of how one could end extra billing in this province. They understand, as I am sure the honourable member opposite understands, our commitment to that principle. However, we would like to have their advice. If they have better advice on how to do that and on how to implement it in a way they would support, I would be delighted. I stand ready to discuss that with them any time.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Grossman: Of course, what the Premier will not sit down and negotiate with the OMA is the question of whether extra billing is the only way to ensure full accessibility.

The Premier may have been interested in the excellent remarks made here by his own member, the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson). I have his speech here. In essence, he said that no self-respecting union would tolerate a circumstance where management says to it, "We are willing to negotiate with you, but our position is non-negotiable." That is his view of the Premier's view of negotiations.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, please.

Mr. Grossman: I will repeat the question: If the Premier's concern is accessibility, why will he not sit down with the OMA and say, "If full accessibility can be achieved in ways other than by banning extra billing, the government wants to hear about it and will allow the OMA to prove it can achieve that accessibility"?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member has asked me the same question and I will give him the same answer. I happen to disagree with him and the member he quotes with respect to that question. This government has stood ready to discuss, negotiate and work with the OMA, and that offer is still there. The member knows our position on the question of extra billing. If he has an idea as to how to implement it in a fairer way or a way that would make the OMA happier, I would be delighted to include him in the negotiations. He knows where we stand on this question.

Mr. Rae: The Tory filibuster is costing the patients of this province $1 million a week and the province $1 million a week in transfers. That is what the Tories' lying in bed with the OMA is costing the people of this province. That is what that tag team is costing us. Do we have the Premier's assurance that, quite contrary to the suggestion of the leader of the Tory party, this House will stay in session and complete second reading of this bill and that we will not leave here until Bill 94 has received second reading?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The two members opposite have pointed out why it is so good for

this province that it now is not being run by either of the extremist parties, but by a moderate, thoughtful and reasonable party. We are committed to this principle and we have set a course of action.

I recognize that, as with any controversial issue, there has to be full discussion. If the members opposite have anything more worthwhile to contribute, I am a patient man and I am prepared to sit here and listen for as long as they would like. We are doing that. If they feel they have further salient contributions to make, they are entitled to make them. The course has been set in agreement with the House leaders. After discussion, the bill will go to committee for further discussion, and we will invite the OMA and anyone else to contribute.

As a government, we are not so arrogant as to think we are the repositories of all wisdom. If someone comes to that committee with better ideas, we are prepared to amend the bill. We are prepared to work with the OMA and others to implement the principles the majority of the members of this House believe in.

Mr. Grossman: First, I want to confirm for the batting-practice pitcher that our House leader has indicated we will be prepared to vote on this matter next Tuesday. If the member asks his House leader, he will confirm this.

Mr. Pope: He knew it when he stood up.

Mr. Rae: Why did he ask the question?

Mr. McClellan: He knew the answer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Silly question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The time of the House is being wasted.

Mr. Grossman: My, we are touchy.

Mr. Rae: We are voting on it. It is not like clean water, is it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is the point?

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: If he wants to ask a question, he should feel free; we have been waiting for months.

I want to clarify the question for the Premier. He says he is willing to negotiate, he is delighted to receive all suggestions with regard to accessibility and he has been looking forward to a chance to discuss this matter with the OMA. I ask the Premier one more time, is he willing, yes or no, to say to the OMA that he will hoist the legislation and not proceed any further, and give the OMA a chance to convince him that full accessibility can be achieved in ways other than by banning extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the frustrations of being in opposition even better than the honourable member opposite. I languished there for a very long time. One of the things I learned is that one does not have to ask the same question three times. I have answered the question twice already. Surely the member knows the answer by now.

Mr. Grossman: I want to thank the Premier for that condescension. We still do not have a yes or no answer. When the Premier goes outside, perhaps he will be kind enough to tell the media whether the answer to that question was yes or no. I do not need lectures from him on how to be Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Grossman: I would like to ask the government House leader whether the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) is going to be joining us this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: He is expected to be here.

Mr. Grossman: Perhaps I will hold back the second question then.

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. In answer to certain questions from my Health critic on Friday concerning the possibility of doctors insisting on payment prior to a patient having received money from the Ontario health insurance plan in the event of more doctors opting out of the situation, the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) said: "In this situation, if a person is requested to make a payment, he or she should sit down with the physician and say, 'I cannot do it. Wait until I get reimbursed by OHIP and then I will make the payment.'"

The minister also said: "I have said on more than one occasion that the physicians–even those who do not like the principles of this bill–have told me face to face that patients can sit down with them and talk about their financial problems."

I would like to ask the Premier, why in the name of goodness should someone who is sick have to sit down and discuss his financial situation with his doctor?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the honourable member's question and from whence it comes. It is our hope this situation does not develop. The honourable member is aware as much as anyone in this House of the sensitive nature of the discussions with the doctors now. He is aware of some of the statements made by

members of the medical profession and the Ontario Medical Association.

It is our hope these things will pass in the course of time. It is our belief that doctors, being the professionals they are, will not sacrifice individual patients' health for their disagreement with the government's principles at this time.

It is our view we can work these things out. There may be little adjustments along the way, but doctors will be understanding of the situation that presents itself and will not jeopardize anybody's health care.

Mr. Rae: The Premier was in Pembroke yesterday, I gather, as well as in other places. I heard him say, "We are not going to have one standard of health care for the rich and another for the poor." It was one of the things that woke me up on the radio this morning at 6:30.

If that is the case, why does the government not simply set down a basic rule and make a change to the Health Disciplines Act that will be quite specific and will say that no doctor can request, require or expect payment until such time as the patient has received that money from OHIP? Why not state that as the law of the province rather than continuing to rely on goodwill and charity? Surely it is not charity we need but justice.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I believe the majority of doctors, if not all of them, will operate on that basis. Presumably the system will be the following: If they opt out, they will send the patient a bill. After treatment is received, if the patient is capable of sending in his or her own cheque to cover that, perhaps they will, and then wait for the OHIP cheque to come along. If they do not, they will wait for the OHIP cheque to come along and they will endorse that to the doctor. I think doctors will understand that and work on that system. Frankly, I do not see the perils in this system that the honourable member is pointing out.

Mr. Pope: The Premier can be as nonchalant as he wants. There is concern among the population of Ontario that there will be a deterioration in the delivery of health care to them and to their families. The Premier hopes these things will not develop. He has embarked upon a course of action that will ensure they do develop.

We repeat, why will the Premier not hoist the bill, give himself until April 7 when this session opens again, and negotiate universal accessibility to protect senior citizens and the financially disadvantaged?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I fundamentally disagree with the premise upon which the honourable member opposite bases his question today. I will repeat the course of action on the bill. I presume he knows his leader has told us there will be a vote on Tuesday night, presumably by common agreement, and that is a good thing. We will all have an opportunity to express our will on second reading at that point.

Then we will go to committee. We will have discussion over a period of a couple of months and the bill will come back. It will not be the law of the land until April 7. At that point, there can still be amendments to the act, if that is the will of the majority, and we will have a further opportunity for discussion later on. We have to be prepared to be patient and talk these things out. We are accomplishing in a very orderly way some of the purposes the honourable member puts forward.

Mr. Rae: Apart from opting out, another of the tactics that has been suggested by the Ontario Medical Association in a number of statements that have been made is that doctors will now start to charge for a number of services for which they have not charged before. Last week, my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside, our Health critic (Mr. D. S. Cooke), issued a list of a number of services for which there is no specific charge: hospital visits not covered by OHIP, prescription renewals, chart summaries to other physicians, appointments with specialists, some medical examinations, telephone advice, certain certificates, materials, drugs, medication, bandages, etc., which vary with the cost of–

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Rae: What steps does the Premier intend to take to protect patients from the imposition of charges for which there is no justification and which should not be outside the OHIP system? What does he intend to do to preserve one-price medicine of fully insured services in the province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Presumably, they will charge only for services that can be reimbursed by OHIP.

Let me give the other side of this. One of the problems in our health care system at the moment is that very few, if any, people know the price of the medical services they are consuming. I take my child to a doctor, he or she is well looked after, I walk out of the office and I have no idea

how much that visit cost or how much the state will be billed for that examination.

Now that the doctor is going to send me and, presumably, every person who is working with an opted-out doctor a bill, they will have a better sense of the cost of health care and what they are being billed for. Maybe this exercise, in spreading the information with respect to the real cost of health care, will be salutary, not just for the doctors but for the patients as well.

We may see a situation where the collective intelligence on this whole question is increased and society as a whole is capable of making better judgements with respect to the allocation of health care knowledge.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Treasurer. It concerns the withdrawal of pension surpluses. The Treasurer stated with some confidence on Tuesday that there was no run. He said that as far as he was concerned, there was no problem.

Is the Treasurer aware that in the United States pension withdrawals in 1980 were at $18 million and by 1985 had reached $3.1 billion for that one year? Is he also aware that in Ontario the figure was $3 million for withdrawals in 1980 and in 1984 it jumped to $177 million? That is from active plans alone. In the United States it is an increase of 172 times and in Ontario it is an increase of 59 times over that five-year period. What does the Treasurer call a run?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I do not call that a run. There is no indication of companies lining up for approval from the Pension Commission of Ontario. Under the laws of Ontario and the regulations passed associated with them, all of the requirements are to be met. We require by regulation 125 per cent of the minimum numbers of dollars to be on deposit or invested in the pension. There is no chance whatsoever that the people who have contributed or the employees in the plan are in any danger of losing what is committed to them by the plan of their employment.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is not disturbed by a 172-fold increase in the United States or a 60-fold increase in Ontario. He does not describe that as a run.

I wonder how he feels about another very important piece of information. The average actuarial rate of interest–that is to say, the assumed rate of return that is built into planned funding formulas–in 1984 was 6.4 per cent, which is less than one could have got by putting it into a daily interest account at one's credit union. Only six per cent of plans used an interest rate of eight per cent or higher.

When one compares that with the actual rate of return on longer terms, does the Treasurer not realize that what these plans are doing is building a surplus into the very existence of those plans, going in and taking the money they should be paying to the workers of this province?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I just say again that under the current laws, the guarantee of sufficient funds to pay out the requirements–as approved by the plan and policed, if I may use that word, by the Pension Commission of Ontario–is assured.

The withdrawals are something less than one per cent. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) was indicating to me just yesterday when we were discussing this that it is 0.35 per cent. I suppose that is just one way of making the amount seem relatively small. It is a very large amount, but we do not consider it a run.

We believe the companies that have been required by regulations to contribute to the plan have fulfilled those responsibilities. The honourable member would know that while there are surpluses there now, in the past and, God forbid, perhaps in the future, economic changes might require additional payments to be made under the regulations.

Mr. Rae: There is currently a proposal in Ronald Reagan's Congress that would establish a surtax on pension fund withdrawals, because the current epidemic of withdrawals, as it has been described by many observers in the United States, is there because it is being used in the corporate takeover war that is taking place in the United States, as it is taking place in Canada.

One of the suggestions in the United States Congress is that there should be a surtax on withdrawals in an attempt to discourage companies from withdrawing. The Treasurer is not prepared to stop the withdrawals now. He is not prepared to put on a freeze. He is not prepared to stop this process. Is he telling us he is prepared to do even less than Ronald Reagan's Congress appears to be ready to do in the United States of America?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The surtax is an interesting proposal, and I will have a look at it. However, the member would know that during times of very high inflation, the actuaries, I am informed, would advise companies required to contribute to the plans that their actuarial requirement was increasing rapidly, and many of the companies put in large sums to make up for the pension

payout requirements as advised and recommended by the actuaries in charge of the fund.

With inflation down to four per cent and relatively stable–and I hope it stays at that point; I hope stability is maintained–the need for these funds is not now recognized by the actuaries, and this permits the pension commission to recognize those as surplus funds, which are then withdrawn.

The idea of a surtax is something I suppose a Treasurer or a Minister of Finance would always be looking at. It would certainly provide revenue.

2:30 p.m.

YOUNG OFFENDER

Mr. Gillies: My question is for the Attorney General and it is regarding a 14-year-old who killed a Scarborough couple and their seven-year-old daughter, a much-publicized case recently.

The Attorney General will be aware that with a trial under the Young Offenders Act it was impossible for that young offender to be sentenced to longer than three years in penitentiary. Will the Attorney General tell the House why he did not instruct the crown attorney to have that case transferred to an adult court?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The circumstances in this case and the real tragedy of the case are that we have a 14-year-old boy who is probably insane or profoundly disturbed but who has been found not to be insane by a trial judge. Under the circumstances that the Young Offenders Act presents, he can be sentenced to three years and there can be no appeal from the finding of the trial judge that he is sane–this notwithstanding that both counsel asked for that result, which is very unusual, and both psychiatrists concluded that the boy was insane.

It produces a tragic result. The result could have been averted in this case, though not in all cases, if a transfer hearing had been requested. A transfer hearing cannot be requested if the boy is under 14. This boy had just become 14 at the time of the offence, and the crown attorney–a very experienced crown attorney–bearing in mind the joint submission of both counsel, the joint opinion of two eminent psychiatrists–jointly retained–that the boy was insane, and the fact that the boy had just achieved his 14th birthday, concluded that a transfer hearing was unnecessary.

There are certain advantages to trial in the youth court: the social services, the speed, the lack of cost–

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: I can appreciate what the Attorney General is saying regarding the procedure of the case once it commenced, but it is my understanding that the Attorney General had the power to transfer this case into adult court at any time up until the case commenced. The offence was in April. The trial commenced in October. Will the Attorney General not agree that it is unconscionable that someone guilty of a crime of this magnitude should face the possibility of parole after six months, and that steps should have been taken to ensure that the trial was held in adult court and that a more appropriate sentence would have been rendered?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The reality is that if a transfer application had been made, it would have been made before this government was in office, as a practical matter; but that is not the answer and I do not hold the the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) responsible for what happened. I have no right to order a transfer nor has the crown attorney any right to order a transfer. What we have is the right to request a transfer hearing in which the judge himself will decide, on the evidence, whether a transfer is desirable or not.

In a case such as this, where all the evidence was predicated and pointed to insanity, where both counsel jointly submitted to the trial judge in chambers and in court that the boy was clearly insane and where there was no suggestion to the contrary, it was decided to proceed, as was done. If the boy had been a few days younger, we would not have been able to ask for a transfer hearing, because it is not permitted until a child reaches 14. The difficulty here is where there is a maximum sentence of three years, there should be the right to appeal a finding of sanity.

I will be meeting with the Solicitor General of Canada, who is reviewing the provisions of the Young Offenders Act, at Vancouver on Tuesday next, and I will be asking him, in the light of the maximum sentence, to consider permitting an appeal with respect to a finding of sanity.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Given that the problem here is the lack of a finding of insanity and that has limited what can be done, this child may be incarcerated for three years with no requirement that he receive any treatment at all, so he comes out as an even more lethal instrument afterwards. What can the minister do to guarantee that child will receive the kind of treatment he is going to need in the next three years?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I want to assure the House that every facility we have to provide treatment for this unfortunate boy will be provided. It is

highly likely that he will be dispatched to the Syl Apps Youth Centre where he will be in the secure treatment program, which is directed by Dr. Clive Chamberlain, who was one of the jointly retained psychiatrists who told the judge the boy was insane.

Dr. Chamberlain can, if he wishes–and he will consider the matter as a medical question–determine whether it is appropriate to hold the boy under the Mental Health Act as an involuntary patient. Everything will be done to ensure that this very unfortunate boy gets all the assistance that we in the province can provide him. I want to assure the House that there will be no risk to the public whatever in this case.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker: The second leadoff question of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) was stood down awaiting the arrival of the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara). I am now informed that he will not be with us during question period.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Leader of the Opposition wish to place another question now?

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Grossman: I might ask a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. With the House possibly adjourning next week and with the spectre of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. sale still hovering, can the minister report to the House today whether any offers have been received yet to purchase UTDC, who they are from and what the closing date on those offers are?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The answer is no. We have a closing date of February 11 for any bids that may be offered. Beyond that, nothing has been received from any prospective purchasers.

Mr. Grossman: In view of the fact that the minister's colleagues in the federal House have made quite a fuss over the fact that the de Havilland sale was closed, thus apparently cutting off a full discussion of it before a commitment was made, can he give a commitment to this House that no deal will be accepted by the government of Ontario to sell UTDC prior to the standing committee on public accounts having a chance to deal with the reference our party made to that committee some weeks ago?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I do not know when the House may recess, but as I indicated, there is a time frame for bids to be received. We do not have a time fixed in stone for any bid to be accepted.

Mr. Rae: I did not hear an answer to the question. It is really not terribly complicated. As have the leaders of other parties, we have met with most of the principals concerned and certainly with the workers involved, both in Thunder Bay and Kingston. There is an enormous concern that guarantees be in place and everything be entirely satisfactory to those people who have been jammed around over the last six months by the amount of speculation.

Will the minister not agree it is in the public interest that no final contracts be signed and no final deal made until this House, or a committee of this House, has had an opportunity to look at the contracts and until the workers involved have also had a chance to do that?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I understand the leader of the third party met with some of the workers yesterday. Certainly, as he requests, we will consider discussing with those workers some of the terms or details of any offer we may receive. The conditions that existed and the questions previously put to this House are still paramount in the minds of this government.

Mr. Grossman: The minister has now avoided answering the same question twice. I want to give him a final opportunity.

He has people who perhaps may be interested in providing an alternative offer; he has the whole question of job guarantees and technology up for grabs. Given the commitment of his leader to an open government, one without walls and barriers, which will share information at will, will the minister or will he not–one out of 48 is not bad–give an undertaking to this House that no deal will be accepted until the standing committee on public accounts has had an opportunity to peruse those arrangements?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: We do not consider that anything in the proposition related to UTDC is up for grabs. It will be handled in a most business-like manner by the proper people on this side of the House.

As I answered to the previous question, we will meet and discuss with those interested parties, the workers in Thunder Bay and Kingston, any details that may flow from any pending offer.

2:40 p.m.

CONTRACT WORKERS

Mr. McClellan: I have a question of the Premier, who met this morning with representa-

tives of the 250 workers from First Canadian Place, the cleaners who are going to be fired in March by the Reichmanns. I was very disappointed to hear that the cleaners' representatives received in many respects the same fatuous answers they have been getting for 10 years from the previous government with respect to the impossibility, difficulty and complexity of successor rights legislation.

Given that section 63 of the Labour Relations Act says that if an employer sells the business, the purchaser is bound by any collective agreement, and given that it is crystal-clear in the Labour Relations Act what the obligation is, why is it beyond the wit of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) and his officials to amend section 63 so that contractors and subcontractors are equally bound by pre-existing collective agreements?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member points out that the legislation as it exists does not cover this kind of situation. I do not pretend to be an expert in labour law; I have lost my QC and I defer to the member opposite in this regard.

I sat and chatted with the workers this morning and I have a considerable amount of sympathy for the situation they have at the moment. However, as one approaches the solution to this problem legislatively, it is an extremely difficult drafting problem. One could cast the net so widely that one would catch a lot of things one may not want to catch.

I can give the member, if he is interested, a number of situations–hypothetical perhaps, but real as well–that at this moment at least would not be beneficial to catch up in that act.

We have undertaken to have discussions with the employer to see what we can do about those 250 people who may or may not lose their work as a result of tendering that contract, but if the member is asking me to change the law on successor rights at this time, the answer is no, I am not prepared to do it today.

Mr. Mackenzie: Back on April 2, 1984, the now Minister of Labour made some very interesting comments. We do not have time for more than this one line, "Surely the women of this province deserve something better than the kind of uncertainty so many of them are going through now."

Is the Premier prepared to sit down with his colleague the Minister of Labour, with whom he is now chatting, and have a little more formal chat about the kinds of initiatives this government might take to stop this kind of action? I could go on. He is giving the same answers we got from the same deputy ministers and from the last Minister of Labour. When are we going to get some action to deal with this–

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I want the member to know that the minister and I and the members of this cabinet are prepared to take complete responsibility for the policies of this government and we do not hide behind bureaucrats–

Mr. Rae: That is not how I have heard it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Perhaps the third party wants to take the credit. If they are going to take the credit for the good things, they had better take the credit for this too. They cannot have it both ways.

It is a serious question and it needs a serious answer. It is a troubling situation. We are looking at our legislative options. If the member asks whether the law is going to be changed right now, the answer is no. If he is asking whether we are reviewing it and seeing whether this kind of situation can be addressed in the future, the answer is yes. Specifically, legislation right now would probably not solve this particular problem anyway. We are working with the various parties to see whether we can come to some kind of an accommodation.

That is the best answer I can give the member at the moment. I wish I could wave a magic wand and solve it today but I am not capable of doing that.

ONTARIO HYDRO DEBT

Mr. Andrewes: My question is for the Minister of Energy and it pertains to a financial matter with Ontario Hydro–a public utility he often described, in terms of financial matters, as having the same integrity as a Third World nation.

The minister knows that every one-cent drop in the Canadian dollar adds about $150 million to the $10.5-billion debt Hydro has with United States lenders and increases the cost of operating the utility by between $10 million and $15 million a year. He knows these increased costs are passed on to consumers and passed on at a time when the prices of other forms of energy are falling.

Would the minister tell us what steps he plans to take to protect the electrical consumer of Ontario from the increased costs of servicing a debt that he often said in the past threatens the financial soundness of the province?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I guess we are going to have to struggle along under the burden that was left to us. To answer the question directly, some

$10 billion in loans in the US market is locked in for a long time.

The member's figures are close to accurate–probably not as good as mine because his research would be wanting now that he is over there–but in any event, we will be looking for every cent on the dollar. We are looking at a tremendous increase and it is going to reflect in the rates of Ontario Hydro. There is not much we can do about that.

Mr. Davis: Are the people going to pay more for their medicine?

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) have a supplementary? I heard one.

Mr. Andrewes: With respect, the minister simply repeated the question I asked and gave me the usual history lesson. He will know that in February 1985–listen to this, Minister–

Mr. Speaker: I am listening for a supplementary.

Mr. Andrewes: The minister will know that in February 1985 his leader claimed the declining value of the Canadian dollar from 75 cents to 72 cents was bringing the utility closer to bankruptcy.

If Hydro was close to bankruptcy with a 72-cent Canadian dollar, will the minister tell us whether a 70-cent dollar, a 68-cent dollar or a 65-cent dollar will bankrupt the utility, or was his leader's position a year ago somewhat inaccurate or irresponsible?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The fact remains that the borrowings were made. Every cent by which the dollar decreases in value will reflect on the rates of Ontario Hydro. That is a fact of life we are going to live with. Until we can get out from under it, until we can encourage Canadians to invest in Ontario Hydro borrowings and do the things that should be done to reflect on the whole matter of borrowing money, we are going to have to pay for what was left to us. It is that simple. There is nothing else we can do.

Mr. Charlton: The minister seems to feel uncomfortable with the decisions made by the former government in the level of debt imposed there. Is he now prepared under the present situation to stop any further borrowing by Ontario Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The only undertaking I might share at this time is that we are going to do something that I suggested while I was sitting on the other side; that is, to get into borrowing from the people in Ontario and in Canada so they very properly own the utility.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Minister of Labour regarding the introduction of an aluminum prophylaxis in the gold and uranium mines of Ontario.

He will be aware that in 1943, the McIntyre Research Foundation developed a wonder drug which would prevent silicosis. The theory was that if miners were to breathe aluminum dust, it would coat their lungs and they would not get silicosis; they would be immune. Miners entering the mines had to go through the "dry" to change and they inhaled aluminum dust injected into the atmosphere.

Can the minister indicate to the House whether the federal government ever approved the use of aluminum dust under the Food and Drugs Act to force this procedure on miners who objected to its use, or did McIntyre Mines do this on its own?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: In answer to the question from my friend, for whom I am now preparing inspection reports, I am going to have to check into it and get back to him. I expect the honourable member understands, since the question is pretty detailed.

Mr. Martel: Is the minister aware of work by Dr. G. H. Stone, who conducted studies on the effects of aluminum on rats and guinea pigs by exposing them to the same prophylactic agent miners inhaled? These animals developed tumours of the lung similar to human carcinoma. Is the minister further aware that six years ago the United Steelworkers were able to get this substance stopped and a study was ordered that suggested and recommended a further study be commissioned to determine the effects of this prophylaxis on miners and their lungs?

Since that study never occurred, is the minister prepared to commission such a study immediately to find out whether the aluminum has contributed to the cancer our miners are suffering now?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My friend will know that Dr. Muller is currently completing phase 2 of his report, which is expected early in the spring. Following that report, certain decisions, which I assume will be held in abeyance, will be made in terms of workers' compensation for gold miners. I will check immediately with Dr. Muller, with whom I met last week, to see whether the findings of Dr. Stone have been incorporated as part of the phase 2 study, and if not, why not. I will get back to the member.

RESIDENT ANGLING LICENCE

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Treasurer. He will know that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) wants to introduce resident anglers' licences. He has invited the public to advise him as to how he might be able to convince the Treasurer to commit these funds solely for the improvement of Ontario's fisheries. Can the Treasurer save the Ministry of Natural Resources a lot of time and trouble and assure us today that all proceeds raised by the licences will go into a separate fund dedicated to fisheries management and not go into the consolidated revenue fund?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) said one cannot do that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As the Minister of Natural Resources so suitably interjects, we cannot do that. It is not our policy. However, we can assure the people who are interested in fishing and who are prepared and anxious to pay for this relatively inexpensive licence that at least that number of dollars will be made available in the budget of the minister to go forward with the innovative improvements that have been lacking in this province for so long.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will wait until we can hear the question.

Mr. Harris: I believe the Treasurer is well aware that the minister's proposal is conditional on these funds being dedicated to fisheries management programs. He knows the only way it can be guaranteed, both in the short term and the long term, is if a separate fund is set up. He also knows no one in the province will support the proposal unless that is the case.

The proposal of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the support of the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association is based on that. It is a simple question: Will he give us the absolute guarantee today that not some, but all the money raised by the licence will be turned over to fisheries management by incorporation in a separate fund?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I was quite clear that not some, but all the dollars will be made available in the budget of the minister. When we talk about earmarking the dollars, we do not need any more guarantee than the commitment of the minister backed up by the commitment of the Treasurer.

Mr. Laughren: Typically, I have a compromise, a way out for the Treasurer. If a licence is imposed, would he assure us of two things: (1) that a special fund will be set up that will have in it more money than is raised through the imposition of the licence fee, and (2) that our native people, our first citizens of this province, will not have to pay the angling licence fee?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Native people will not have to pay it and neither will young people, but we do not need a commitment for any more or fewer dollars because all the dollars will be made available to the minister. It is a very suitable and fair way to proceed.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the minister responsible for women's issues, the Attorney General. If he disagrees with the submission by the Personnel Association of Ontario that the government should not proceed with legislation on equal pay, could he explain why he has appointed, as the male majority of the equal pay consultation panel, the heads of two private companies whose personnel managers are members of the Personnel Association of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Now, that is research.

Hon. Mr. Scott: That is research. I disagree with the position the Personnel Association of Ontario has taken on that point. I had the opportunity to meet with them the other day and we had a useful, perhaps lively, discussion about the question of equal pay.

In appointing members to this group, I did not do research to find out what associations they had joined or what their parties or backgrounds were. I simply looked at their expertise, found that satisfactory and recommended they should be appointed.

Ms. Gigantes: The minister must be aware that neither Royal LePage nor Campbell Soup has an affirmative action program or an equal opportunity program. They were not even mentioned in the minister's achievement on employment equity awards. The only place that equal pay legislation is going to get a fair hearing is right here before a legislative committee. Will he stop the sham of this consultation, table the bill and let us get on with the work in this area in an honest and fair manner?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am quite prepared to answer questions, but if the member wants to talk about sham, let us get right down to it. The reality is–I have a note here that I am supposed to be nicer than that, so let me try to answer the question directly. My executive assistant tells me I am much too direct and abrupt in the way I answer questions, so I will begin again.

I thank the member for the question. I am very grateful to have it. The reality that neither of the companies that employ two members of the group has equal pay plans is neither here nor there. The intent of this scheme is to develop a system so all the employers in Ontario will have equal pay plans.

Mr. Gillies: Supplementary to the nice minister: When he first announced the panel that would be travelling in the province on the question of equal pay, we did raise the concern that it was made up of three corporate executives. He promised us then that there would be another consultative group made up of representatives of labour and women. When are we going to see that? Or was the minister only kidding?

Hon. Mr. Scott: To the nice member for Brantford, the announcement of the members of those two panels will be made either Friday or Monday, I am not certain which. One of the panels has met several times and I am able to report that much useful work is being done. I will let the House have the names very shortly.

3 p.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Davis: It is indeed an honour to address the Minister of Education and ask him a question. In his letter of January 17, 1986, to the chairman of the standing committee on social development, he says, "The government does not intend to protect public schoolteachers' jobs from the effects of the full funding of Roman Catholic secondary schools beyond a 10-year period."

Does the minister not think it is his responsibility to protect public schoolteachers without any arbitrary time limit?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to reiterate to the member for Scarborough Centre and his colleagues in the official opposition what I have said repeatedly: This minister and this government intend to provide the public school system with every protection that is required to buffer it against the cost of the separate school extension. We have made that clear and we will continue not only to say that but also to do it.

Mr. Davis: Do I understand the minister to inform this House that, after the 10-year period, his government guarantees job protection to the elementary and secondary schoolteachers who will find their jobs redundant because of the extension of separate school funding? Yes or no? That is an easy answer for the minister.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would not want my honourable friend from Scarborough to become too exercised. He knows better than perhaps any of his colleagues that the 10-year period that is incorporated in the legislation is there because we believe that during the course of that decade–

Mr. Davis: This party will guarantee it. Is the minister going to guarantee it or not?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you want to hear the answer?

Mr. Grossman: You bet.

Mr. Speaker: Okay.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member knows that the 10-year period is in the legislation because we believe that during the course of that 10-year period, separate school extension as it is contemplated by this government and this Legislature will be fully completed. That is the reason for the time period. The member knows full well, on the basis of the testimony put to the social development committee, that this view is shared by many in the community.

Mr. Allen: Rather than look into that distant, dim future, about which neither the questioner nor the answerer can speculate very clearly, is the minister currently looking sympathetically at amendments or approaches to the legislation that would make it possible for elementary schoolteachers to be considered within the ambit of those who are displaced and therefore protected?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Yes.

FLOODING

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Municipalities are desperately trying to prepare for the coming flood along Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. Their financial resources are very limited because many of those municipalities are quite small. The city of Windsor, for example, is spending $200,000 right now to try to do something and it is having a hard time doing even that.

Why does the minister not take action to protect these people from flooding this spring? Why does he not do what he said he was going to do?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, we have a serious problem with persistent high waters and with precipitation that appears to be above average, and we will have to do something with regard to the protection of that whole shoreline.

I have been to Ottawa to talk with the honourable minister, Tom McMillan, because he is involved in what is an international circum-

stance with some 3,000 miles of shoreline in this province. The member can rest assured that we are going to need help from the federal government to undertake the kind of protection that will be required. That is under way.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) will come forward shortly with an extension to some of the plans that will allow people to borrow money to shore up the areas that are being inundated. We are doing everything that can be done at this time and we shall continue to do so. Our plan will be put forward shortly, before the ice goes out, and we are looking at the kind of storms that we must properly address ourselves to.

Mr. Hayes: We realize that the minister went down to Ottawa and he reported that in the House on January 23. What I would like to know is, did the minister talk about specific help and not about the planning, plotting and mapping things like that for the future? I am talking about development. Did the minister specifically ask for help to protect the properties and the municipalities for the flooding that is imminent this spring and not for the future?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We are certainly addressing the short-term problems, as the member has described. I have already said the minister is bringing in shoreline protection loans that are going to be extended so that people can take advantage of them. I wanted to point out, so there is no misunderstanding, that this problem is of a magnitude that is going to require considerable help from the federal government if we are going to do something to protect ourselves over the long term.

Mr. Brandt: I brought this problem to the attention of the minister's colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs during estimates. Surely the minister is aware that any money that is invested at this time in shoreline protection, even of a temporary kind, will save the government considerable dollars in the long term, as the member has suggested, by reducing the amount of damage that is going to be done immediately.

Can the minister give us some indication of what kind of dollar commitment the government is prepared to put into shoreline protection, or what forms of assistance might be available between now and when the spring floods are anticipated?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: My ministry took the lead role in doing the assessment and in bringing together those people who could properly share with us the amount of damage that was done. I think the legislation that is going to come forward from the Minister of Municipal Affairs is going to address itself to the kind of money this government is going to put forward for shoreline protection and that is imminent.

LICENSING OF TRUCKERS

Mr. Gregory: On a point of personal privilege: My point of privilege is based on a question that I asked the Minister of Transportation and Communications last Friday. The minister suggested he would get back to me. As it is a matter that is clearly on the record, I expected that he would have done so. I am wondering if it is going to be in the early spring, late spring, early fall or whenever?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Before the next full moon.

PETITIONS

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ms. Bryden: "Under the provisions of standing order 33(b), we, the undersigned, request that the most recent annual report of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities be referred to the standing committee on social development. This petition will permit the committee to hold hearings on the proposed closure of the faculty of architecture at the University of Toronto."

ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Mr. Davis: I have a petition signed by over 3,000 people to the Treasurer of the province.

"Whereas the government has decided to merge the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education and the University of Toronto, we, the undersigned, protest this move by the Treasurer of Ontario and petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Ontario Legislature that the Treasurer rescind this ill-advised budget item and that he reaffirm OISE's mandate to serve public education in Ontario."

Interjection.

Mr. Davis: And I want his resignation.

NURSING HOME BEDS

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the Belmont Manor Resident Council. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, request the provincial government to speed up the process of making nursing home beds available to groups in the Waterloo region that are willing to build the required facilities. The government of Ontario is

fully aware of the great need of nursing home beds in this region.

"Among the concerned local organizations, the Ontario Teachers' Retirement Village Inc. is particularly willing and able to build an extended care unit for senior citizens. Therefore, we petition the government to make nursing home beds available at the earliest possible date in 1986 to the OTRV organization."

It is signed by 169 people.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I might take a moment of the House's time to inform you that sitting in the members' west gallery is Mr. Fred Young, a former member of the Legislature. Please welcome him.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: When he was in the House, I remember him saying he was going to conduct his affairs so that he would never lose his tan, and it appears he has been successful.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. McCague from the standing committee on general government reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Skills Development be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Skills development program, $276,342,500;

That supply in the following supplementary amount and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Skills Development be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Skills development program, $65,300,000.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Brandt from the standing committee on administration of justice reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of the Attorney General be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Law officer of the crown program, $3,773,700; administrative services program, $57,536,100; guardian and trustee services program, $8,361,800; crown legal services program, $24,691,000; legislative counsel services program, $1,482,500; courts administration program, $103,493,800; administrative tribunals program, $11,007,100; office responsible for women's issues program, $5,400,000, and resources development policy program for native affairs, $924,100;

That supply in the following supplementary amount and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of the Attorney General be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Office responsible for women's issues program, $1,499,500.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Community planning program, $31,194,300; municipal affairs program, $431,145,700; resources development policy program for the Niagara Escarpment Commission, $1,531,700;

That supply in the following supplementary amount and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Municipal affairs program, $26,479,900.

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Housing be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Ministry administration program, $12,606,300; real estate program, $11,426,600; community housing program, $165,572,500; residential tenancy program, $5,824,500;

That supply in the following supplementary amount and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Housing be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Community housing program, $2,725,300.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Conway, first reading of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The principal feature of this bill is the introduction of a three-year early

retirement incentive program for Ontario's primary and secondary schoolteachers. This amendment to the Teachers' Superannuation Act addresses the special employment problems currently facing Ontario teachers because of declining enrolment and curriculum changes.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), in consultation with the Ontario Teachers' Federation, has designed this early retirement plan to ensure a future pool of well-trained and experienced teachers in the classrooms while enabling longer-service teachers to retire without undue financial burden.

The amendment will suspend early retirement reduction factors for three years for teachers aged 55 and over and will be effective from May 31, 1986, to August 31, 1989. It is estimated that 5,500 teachers will take advantage of this opportunity. The estimated cost of the proposal during the period of payments to the retiring teachers is $321 million. This will be financed from the teachers' superannuation plan, which is jointly funded by the province and the teachers.

The remaining amendments are mainly of an administrative and housekeeping nature. The majority of these amendments have been examined and recommended by the biennial review committee on the Teachers' Superannuation Act and regulations. This committee is composed of representatives from the government, the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Teachers' Superannuation Commission.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Ms. Bryden moved, seconded by Mr. Philip, resolution 4:

That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that part-time workers in both the public and private sector are discriminated against by the denial of many benefits and rights provided to other workers in the same establishment, a charter of rights for part-time workers be added to both the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act to provide pro rata benefits and collective bargaining rights to such workers and that they be made eligible for severance pay and retraining and readjustment programs provided for other workers displaced by technological change in the same establishment.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes and may reserve any part of that time for the end of the debate.

Ms. Bryden: I would like to reserve five minutes for the end of the debate.

This area of discussion, a charter of rights for part-time workers, is the next important area of labour legislation that we need in this province. We in the New Democratic Party have pioneered in getting a great number of the pieces of legislation that are now on the statute books into effect. While they do not all cover the issues as widely as we would like, they have been steps forward in the protection of workers from exploitation.

3:20 p.m.

We have built important provisions for collective bargaining in this province with the Labour Relations Act, and we have built bit by bit, over the foot-dragging of the previous government, a number of provisions in the Employment Standards Act that guarantee workers, whether they are organized or not, fair conditions, or minimum conditions, in their employment.

As long as exploitation is possible, we will need legislation to make sure all employees are treated fairly and are given their rights under the charter to have free collective bargaining and freedom of assembly. By adopting this motion today, this House should start the work within the government to draft legislation that will ensure that our labour and collective bargaining legislation does extend the rights that are guaranteed by the charter to part-time workers.

Part-time workers are growing in number very rapidly in our economy. In Ontario in the four years from 1981 to 1985, in the second quarter, the increase in full-time jobs was 3.5 per cent and the increase in part-time jobs was 17.2 per cent. We have to recognize that many of the part-time workers took part-time jobs because there were no full-time jobs available. However, some of them took part-time jobs because it suited their circumstances at the time to do so and they wanted part-time work. However, none of those who took part-time work wanted to be treated as a second-class citizen when it came to benefits and collective bargaining. This is the situation we are in today.

The growth in part-time work is evidenced by what has been happening in some of our big retail department stores and supermarkets. For example, in November 1984, Simpsons Ltd. fired 1,631 employees and hired back 800 part-time employees, many, of course, at lower hourly rates than they had been receiving as full-time workers. The T. Eaton Co. Ltd. is now operating with 60 to 65 per cent of its employees in the part-time category. Many other retail stores are using part-time workers almost exclusively.

I am told that in 1985 the numbers of full-time bank tellers and customer service employees rose very little, but there was a 15 per cent increase in part-time workers in these areas.

A and P Food Stores, in negotiating with its union recently, wanted to transfer all the full-time employees to part-time positions at a cut in wages of from 18 per cent to 29 per cent. I understand this is still under negotiation, but that was its objective. So we can see that this is a growing problem and a changing situation in the province.

If we look at the reasons for which employers use part-time employees, we can see that there are about half a dozen. The first is flexibility to meet seasonal peaks or daily peaks, when more employees are needed, and that is a legitimate desire. Other reasons are to provide opportunities for employment for people who do want part-time work only, such as high school students, sometimes university students, women with child care responsibilities or men with child care responsibilities.

However, other reasons for hiring part-time workers should be looked at. Employers are attracted to part-time workers because they are cheaper. There is therefore an incentive for them to hire as many part-time workers as possible. They wish to avoid creating new jobs or they wish to have people who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement or who are not organized at all. They wish to have people who are not subject to many of the employment standards laws and who are not eligible for pension plans. In effect, they are looking for labour that is cheaper and that they can exploit more easily because of the lack of protective laws.

This kind of exploitation is something we should look at and be ashamed. Many part-time workers get little job security, no consideration of seniority and irregular schedules. They are subject to call when the employer wants them—it may be for only a few hours or a few days—and they have no regular schedule that they can plan their lives around. The employers get them at lower minimum wages, especially if they hire people under 18, and they know that the people they hire are often not covered by the employment standards or trade union laws.

Of particular concern is the employment of women as part-time workers. In 1985, women constituted 73 per cent of the 720,000 part-time employees in Ontario, so it is a very special problem for women. It is also a very special problem for people who are being displaced by technological change or who are facing some kind of technological change that reduces the number of jobs in the establishment. Those people also need protection if they have to take two part-time jobs, as they may, in order to make up a full-time job in their particular industry.

It seems to me it is time to remove the economic incentives for employers by bringing in a charter of rights for part-time workers and to protect those new groups of employees who have become part-time but who were full-time before.

The previous government had endorsed some extension of part-time benefits for employees of the public service before it left office, but it was dragging its feet on the implementation of that policy by making it very difficult to become eligible. A lot of part-time civil servants or employees of the public service were not eligible.

The new government has undertaken some initiatives to change this policy, and I commend it for this. I hope it will not drag its feet or set standards of eligibility that will still cut out large numbers of employees who would be entitled to the same kind of protection and pro rata benefits as are being extended to some public servants.

3:30 p.m.

We have had various royal commissions and studies on the part-time work problem. In 1983, the federal government commissioned a study, Part-Time Work in Canada, the Wallace commission, which underlined what it found about the exploitation resulting from part-time jobs. It said:

"Not only are part-time jobs concentrated within industries and occupations that pay lower average hourly wages, but in addition, even within these lower-paid groups, part-time jobs pay even less.... On an average hourly basis, a part-time job pays 79 per cent of the wages that a full-time job pays."

That is a wide gap. There are many that pay considerably less.

It is time to set an example with our labour laws in Ontario and be the first province to have a charter of rights for part-time workers. I hope members from all parties in the House will indicate, by adopting such legislation, that we are the leaders in this field and are opposed to the kind of exploitation that is taking place among this very vulnerable group of employees without such legislation. That should make us all think about whether to support this motion.

We also need improvements in the collective bargaining process for part-time workers. The Ontario Labour Relations Board permits separate

agreements for part-time as opposed to full-time workers if the employer so suggests. In a lot of bargaining situations, this means the bargaining strength and time are placed on the full-time workers' agreement and there may not even be the initiative to undertake an agreement for part-time workers.

Some unions also do not cover part-time workers in their bylaws. There must be an opportunity for part-time workers to be organized. One possibility to consider is making it ineligible for a union to sign a collective agreement that does not cover part-time workers in the plant. We would run into definitions as to what is a part-time worker, but that could be worked out.

If we have legislation in this field, we will legitimize and regularize the principle of the recognition of the rights of part-time workers. There will undoubtedly be many charter cases on whether part-timers are discriminated against or not. If we do not have this kind of legislation, it will mean very expensive and costly litigation for the employees concerned and it will involve employers and governments in the same litigation.

If we get this legislation into effect, we can cut out a lot of charter cases and we can set Ontario as the first province with a charter of rights for part-time workers.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I am very pleased to address the motion in front of us and to support it. This should not come as a surprise because it seems fairly obvious that the discussion of part-time work involves itself very closely as a woman's issue, which it is.

The growth has been phenomenal in this area ever since the end of the last war. In 1953, the percentage of part-time workers was 3.8 per cent. As the member for Beaches-Woodbine pointed out, it has now moved to 16 per cent. Until the past couple of years, part-time work grew more quickly than full-time work in our economy.

For the past two years, there has been a levelling out, but even if the present level of employment continues on an even basis, it is apparent that part-time employment is a valuable and important part of our economic activity.

It is a woman's issue because, for such a large part, it is women who do part-time work. As the member pointed out, according to the report, Part-Time Work in Canada, 73 per cent of the work is done by women. Slightly more than a quarter of all women who work do part-time work, compared to only eight per cent of men.

Not only that, but the women in part-time work tend to be in what we call female-dominated jobs. Not only are they working on a part-time basis, but also they are working in the sorts of jobs that tend to be paid below the marketplace value of other such work. One could say, to be fair, these women are already underpaid. To be working at a job where they do not receive adequate protection and benefits further punishes them in their status.

It is not surprising, therefore, that whenever women sit down to discuss women's issues, the protection of part-time workers becomes part of their discussion. Conversely, whenever people start to discuss what should be done to protect part-time workers, the conversation takes on the issue of the protection of women. The two are closely entwined and represent a need for security for this very vulnerable group of workers.

I join the member for Beaches-Woodbine in remembering very clearly what happened to workers at Simpsons. This happened to be a time when I was campaigning. More than once, I ran into women who had worked faithfully at Simpsons, supported themselves and their families and suddenly found themselves left out in the cold or reduced to part-time work.

I felt for them emotionally as well as rationally, because my mother-in-law was the head of a mother-led family and raised her family while working in Eaton's. She did that through the Depression and the war years. I hate to think what would have happened to her family if she had been put on half-time and left with absolutely no benefits. Many people lost their houses and much suffering came about as a result of this. Eaton's is following the same pattern.

It is important that women on the whole have accepted that part-time work is a good thing and want it to continue. In order that it be there for the right reasons, for flexibility and for the employment of those who sincerely want to work part-time, we must make sure it remains available for these good reasons without being made available to employers for their benefit in getting cheaper labour.

If working full-time earns certain privileges and rights, then working part-time should earn those same privileges and rights. For those who spend all or a large part of their lives working part-time, this will ensure not only that they get their share of the return, but also that employers do not use part-time work to get away from rightful responsibilities they have to their employees. To avoid this abuse, the benefits must

be made a part of the work, whether one works a full 40-hour week or only part-time.

I realize we were presented with a proposal today which limits itself to those employed beyond two years and such other requirements. While it may cover most of the most needy part-time workers who do it for a large portion of their lives, the problem is that it does not prevent abuse by employers who may move to part-time employment and then to rotating or getting rid of part-time employees before they become eligible for benefits.

3:40 p.m.

There was some question in the present situation with Dominion Stores that the company reduce itself below the level of employees under its domain to avoid certain requirements of job security where there are 50 or more employees. It is sad but realistic to know that we must write the laws in such a way that they are not open to this kind of abuse and, therefore, if we tie all the benefits into the hours worked, whether part-time or full-time, we can ensure that there is not a benefit in moving people around in this way to avoid paying benefits.

I am sure I do not know all the factors and difficulties involved in writing such legislation. I realize the details must be examined much more closely by those writing it up. We have an excellent report put forward on part-time work in Canada. It recognizes that part-time work is here to stay and that the people in this field of activity have equal rights to the benefits they have earned along with those working full-time. We should move on this as quickly as possible.

Women's groups have supported the notion that part-time work particularly serves the employment needs of those who must also provide homemaking and child-rearing opportunities. Many women move into part-time work for a period of their lives. By doing so, they keep up their skills and are able to move back into full-time employment. But these people have need for holidays, have need to accrue pensions and have need for the other benefits we are now beginning to take for granted in full-time work.

It is my most earnest concern that, whether part-time workers be male or female, they earn for themselves the right to holidays, the right to protection, the right to all those facets of employment that full-time workers have earned. Not only does this give them a fair reward for their labour, it also provides the protection to prevent employers from using part-time labour to avoid meeting their obligations to working people.

For this reason, I very much support the motion before the House and hope it receives the support of all the members.

Mr. Barlow: I want to congratulate and commend the member for Beaches-Woodbine for presenting this resolution before the House recommending that we amend the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act to add a charter of rights for part-time workers in Ontario.

I respect the fact that more than 15 per cent of our labour force in Canada is made up of people who work part-time. As has been mentioned by both previous speakers, 72 per cent of part-time workers are women, although I do not consider this wholly a women's issue for reasons I will explain. For instance, one third of all part-time workers are students who are working because they want to get a few dollars to carry on their education.

I have a deep respect for the substantial contribution part-time workers make to the work force of this nation. In many cases, as statistics point out, the part-time work force comprises people who require some type of affirmative action to ensure them a rightful and meaningful place in the work force.

I feel I cannot support the resolution in its present form, however, because it does not offer a clear definition of a part-time worker as the proposed charter might suggest. As long as different definitions or categories of part-time workers exist, it seems impossible to impose legislation that will ensure that all part-timers are treated equitably by their employers.

If the provision of benefits, collective bargaining rights and severance pay was as easy as the resolution seems to suggest, I do not believe there would be too many who would not support the resolution. However–

Mr. Breaugh: Here it comes; the weasel words.

Mr. Barlow: –here it comes–such is simply not the case. The reality is that there is an abundance of categories and definitions of what constitutes part-time workers. Part-time workers may be classed as regular part-time, temporary part-time, casual or seasonal. One just cannot paint them all with the same brush. The reality is there are many different situations to consider in trying to come up with a fair and equitable rate for the part-time work force.

In 1983, the federal Commission of Inquiry into Part-Time Work found that coming to a decision on how to define a part-time worker was one of its major stumbling blocks. After much

deliberation, it was able to recommend only the following definition, "That a part-time worker is one who works less than the normal scheduled weekly or monthly hours of work established for persons doing similar work."

The more recent 1985 report of the subcommittee on equality rights of the House of Commons standing committee on justice and legal affairs, also known as the Boyer report, said, "In considering the position of part-time workers, the committee was struck by both the difficulty of arriving at a comprehensive and fair definition of part-time workers for the benefit of entitlement purposes, and the inconsistency that exists in the provisions of federal laws affecting part-time workers." They had real confusion and concerns about it.

Both the reports I have mentioned agreed that there should be consideration given to some of our part-time workers, but that there would have to be some way to differentiate between permanent part-time workers and casual or seasonal part-time workers.

As the appointed spokesman for small business in our party, I cannot help but be very concerned about the effect that legislating any new rights for workers might have on the owners of small businesses in this province. The part-time work force has been growing steadily over the past few years and the forecasters say it will continue to grow.

As I said, in many cases a person is working part-time because he chooses to do so. The Wallace commission found that 75 per cent of the part-time workers do not want to work on a full-time basis. They like the freedom part-time work affords them so that they have time to engage in whatever other activities they might wish, such as their own education, child-rearing, homemaking, or in the case of a semi-retired person, some leisure activities.

In most cases, what is considered to be a fringe benefit, such as the employer paying the Ontario health insurance plan premiums, is not really required for those who are working part-time. In the case of a young person working in the summertime or after school, it is carried by the parents, or in the case of the part-time working homemaker it is carried by the spouse.

Surveys show that the majority of part-time workers already have adequate benefit coverage and would rather have the money earned than have to contribute towards a benefit package. Market competitiveness is going to become even more important to the businessman if the federal government intends to relax trade barriers.

In talking to many employers, especially those who operate small businesses, it has been brought to my attention that their use of part-time workers is socially progressive. They feel that the use of part-time workers aids students in gaining an education and eases the transition from school to work by allowing them to gain some work experience. It helps older workers to subsidize their pensions in their retirement years. Employers see themselves as contributing to society by hiring part-time workers and do not feel this should be penalized by legislation insisting that they provide the same benefits to part-timers as they offer to full-time employees.

3:50 p.m.

The administration of providing these benefits would in itself be a nightmare with the transient nature of many of the part-time workers. In many cases, one would just get all the paperwork completed to include a part-time worker on the staff benefits plan and then the school year would be upon us, the worker would be gone and somebody new would have to be trained for that position and again signed up for the benefits package.

The estimated cost to the employer for prorating pensions and fringe benefits for part-time workers who possibly would not even require this package would be more than 25 per cent of the income earned by a worker who worked fewer than 12 hours a week. When one considers that less than 33 per cent of all part-time jobs lasted the full year in 1981 due to job turnover and the short length of many part-time jobs, one can understand why employers are reluctant to bear the cost of providing benefits to part-time workers.

It should be noted that enshrining the rights of part-time workers in the Employment Standards Act and in the Labour Relations Act will not solve the problem of pension coverage for part-time workers who work for an organization that does not provide a pension package to its full-time employees.

As I understand it, only about 54 per cent of full-time workers in Canada have access to coverage through an employer-sponsored pension plan. While this is rather sad news–I do not support that principle but it is a fact of life–the point I make today is that this resolution will not serve as a panacea for the ills of the work force. I wish there were some way of separating those who choose to be on a part-time basis from those who are working in an organization which by design–as we have heard pointed out on several occasions today–is using the work force for that

very reason; to avoid the part-time benefits package.

I conclude my remarks on that note, giving my vote to business. I hope we can allow them a little breathing space to increase their chances for survival and for creating meaningful jobs for those who wish to work part-time.

Mr. Mackenzie: It will come as no surprise to indicate that I support the resolution of my colleague. In the opinion of this House, recognizing that part-time workers in both the public and private sectors are discriminated against by the denial of many benefits and rights provided to other workers in the same establishment, a charter of rights for part-time workers should be added to both the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act to provide–and I point this out to the member who just finished speaking–pro rata benefits and collective bargaining rights to such workers and that they may be made eligible for severance pay, retraining and adjustment programs provided for other workers displaced by technological change in the same establishment.

It is not a question of the same kind of a price or package whatsoever; it is a pro rata allotment of benefits to these workers. Unlike the riding of Cambridge, my riding is not one that is filled with small business people and no workers, because workers clearly understand the issue of part-timers' benefits and the issue of first contract.

I am a little disappointed with the statement today from the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Ms. Caplan). If I can go to her comments–and this is in an effort to achieve some of the benefits for part-time workers among government employees and the public sector–she says: "There are two criteria being applied: First, required work must be performed on a year-round ongoing and continuous basis; and second"–this is the one that does in most of the workers who might otherwise qualify for it–"hours of work for the job must be regularly scheduled and must be either less than full-time but not less than 14 hours per week, or less than 20 full days but not less than nine full days over a period of four consecutive weeks."

What we got today in the statement was a little bit of smoke and mirrors with regard to the employees. I cannot give members a better example than that of the part-time workers at the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital. There are in that hospital some 130 people on the part-time rolls. Of those, letters have gone out to a total of 28 who qualify: 28 out of 130. I suspect if we do a little checking, we will find it is the same right across the province.

The odd thing about it is, the example I gave in the House in a question to that same cabinet minister just last week was right on. An employee working 19.5 or 20 hours qualifies, but another who regularly works 21.5 or 23.75 hours a week does not qualify for the part-time benefits.

I would like to put on record a letter that came from the workers at that hospital, because it effectively points out the problem we have when we start limiting who is going to qualify for the part-time benefits. The letter, which is addressed to me, says:

"Members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union at Whitby Psychiatric Hospital have a problem. It's a problem that from what we understand is becoming a concern for members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union province-wide.

"The Swan award gave civil service status and benefits to seasonal, contract and part-time employees of the Ontario government. This is something for which the Ontario Public Service Employees Union has been fighting for for years. It has taken over two years to give contract language to the part-time, seasonal, contract sections of our contract. Our people were looking forward to January 1, 1986, or December 31, 1985, the date we knew that our part-time people had to be notified that they would become part-time classified civil servants (and they would get benefits).

"(Now remember the Tories in the House talked about giving part-time benefits to members of the Ontario public service in order to set an example for other employers in Ontario.)

"At WPH, our people looked forward to the Swan award giving our people benefits such as OHIP, vacation, pension, dental benefits, etc.

"About December 27, 1985, the executive of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Local 331, had the Civil Service Commission definition of 'regular part-time' explained to them. The Civil Service Commission says that in order to be regular part-time, a person must be working regularly scheduled hours on a fixed schedule. Example: a person working four hours a day, 10:30 to 14:30 hours, five days a week would get the benefits. A person who works three days a week on a float or unfixed schedule is not going to get the benefit. Anybody who is on a float or an unfixed schedule," and these are set up

14 days in advance for both groups, "is not going to qualify for the assistance.

"At WPH, we have 130 part-time, contract positions. Of these, the Civil Service Commission have decided that 28 people get benefits." They call it "window-dressing"–these are the employees themselves in their letter.

"What impact does this have? Our people are very upset. The vast majority of these people are women. With the float pools not getting any benefits," and the hospitals like to keep them on float pools so they can call them in or adjust their hours or tell them they will be on float even a couple of weeks in advance, "I have women with 18 years' seniority part-time in this hospital who wanted a pension"–to be able to work towards a pension or some of the benefits. The letter mentions one who still has nothing under this new government move.

"We have women who needed the OHIP, the dental plan, etc. They did not get it.

"Why? They work regularly part-time hours every week. But their hours are not fixed."

That is to the advantage of the hospital, and because the hours are not fixed, these people are automatically disqualified under the rules this government has brought in.

It goes on to say, "Your assistance in this matter is needed and welcome." They have said, "Please do what you can for us."

The letter points out the problem we have had over the years. We have it with respect to domestics and part-time workers. The previous speaker for the government was correct. We have gone from four per cent to almost 17 per cent part-time employees and a vast majority of those are women. They do not get the necessary benefits, even when they are male. A surprising number have been forced into part-time work because of the changing job patterns in this province. Though it is their only job, they may have families and if they are in part-time positions, usually they do not qualify for the benefits that give them some protection with respect to health insurance and the rest one could name.

4 p.m.

We have the ridiculous situation in my own riding now–it is just one of many examples, but I will use it because it is current–of some 16 harbour policeman whom we cannot seem to get the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) to move on.

Here in Toronto they were incorporated into the Metropolitan Toronto Police force. Their service runs from a low of 7.5 years to a high of 21.5 years, and they have all taken from one to four courses at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer. They are well qualified men in their jobs, but the best offer they can get from the police commission in our city, both in Hamilton-Wentworth and in Halton, is that some of them might be taken on as part-time civilian employees.

I have talked to most of these men. I had the wife of one of them in my office just a week ago Saturday. She pointed out some of the expenses they have had over the years and the fact that if her husband took that job now–he is one of the older ones–he might have difficulty locating elsewhere and would not only have a substantial reduction in salary but, as a part-time civilian employee, would also not qualify for the benefits that are needed to assist his family.

I am simply saying this is a resolution whose time not only has come but also is long past due in Ontario. It is a move that has been given lipservice even by my colleagues in the Conservative Party, who now seem to indicate that they are going to vote against this particular measure. That does not surprise me; the same thing happened on first contracts. It is going to be very nice.

Mr. Breaugh: Oh, no.

Mr. Mackenzie: The member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), at least, indicated that he would not support it, and that is a pretty sad commentary on the commitment to working people in Ontario.

However, it is just as sad a commitment to working people by this government when we get the kind of statement we had from the Minister of Government Services in this House today, which was totally inadequate and does not deal with any more than about 15 or 20 per cent of the provincial employees who are in part-time jobs in Ontario.

It is long past time that we take a serious look at a resolution such as the one submitted here by my colleague and see that it does pass this House. Further than that, we should see that the government then takes action to put it into legislation.

Mr. Callahan: I have always considered myself to be a fair person, a person who tries to look at rights that are being usurped or at people who are not treated fairly.

I have looked at this resolution. With all due respect for the honourable member, I cannot find within the framework of either the Employment Standards Act or the Labour Relations Act anything that prevents a part-time worker from

receiving benefits or that denies him any benefits.

Mr. Mackenzie: Where the hell has the member been all these years?

Mr. Callahan: I just finished reading through the Employment Standards Act. I challenge the member to read through it and show me where it says that a part-time employee does not receive a pro rata share of whatever benefits are provided under that act.

Mr. Mackenzie: Without legislation you do not get it. You have to have a contract.

Mr. Callahan: I have read through the Employment Standards Act–that is what is referred to in the member's motion–and there is no place in that piece of legislation that confines it to full-time employees. In fact, if the member will look at the act, he will see that it says:

" 'Employee' includes a person who,

"(i) performs any work for or supplies any services to an employer for wages,

"(ii) does homework for an employer or

"(iii) receives any instruction or training in the activity, business, work, trade, occupation or profession of the employer,

"and includes a person who was an employee."

Mr. Mackenzie: Shall I send all the part-timers to see the member?

Mr. Callahan: I am going to get to the point where the part-time employees, I would suggest, perhaps miss out on some of the benefits, but it certainly is not under the first act that has been referred to in the member's motion.

I will not go through the act clause by clause, but in my understanding of it, the act provides for pro rata compensation in vacation pay, overtime and so on. Overtime probably would not become a significant factor, because a part-time worker would not work in excess of the required hours. It provides for other benefits there that are done on a pro rata basis.

I have looked through the Labour Relations Act as well, and in my humble and quick reading through the document, there is nothing in the act that deals with part-time workers in any unjust way.

I suggest that a part-time worker has equal opportunity to join a labour union, to negotiate a collective agreement and to try to achieve within the terms of that collective agreement greater rights than he receives or is entitled to under the Employment Standards Act. My friends in the third party have addressed the problem that, because of the negotiating of the contract or of the collective agreement, if part-time people decide to join a union, their rights have not been a result of free and open negotiation between employer and employee and they have not been given the same protection as full-time workers.

That is probably because not many part-time workers join a union. If they join a union, they are required to pay union dues and the moneys they are receiving perhaps are not sufficient to allow them to pay those union dues, or perhaps they are working on such a short part-time basis that they do not consider it necessary to join a union.

As a result, they are in a minority situation in any negotiations for a collective agreement and the rights of those workers are not as demonstratively put forward in a democratic process in negotiating that agreement.

I am not addressing the public service because I have not had an opportunity to look at whatever legislation affects it, but I suggest the denial of rights of part-time workers arises out of the small numbers that are part of a bargaining unit. Accordingly, the strength and the kick or punch they have, in terms of votes when it comes to negotiating and ratifying a collective agreement, has absolutely nothing to do with the legislation. If I am wrong, I will be happy if any member can point out to me whether that is the case in the legislation.

Mr. Mackenzie: Two thirds of the people are not organized, to boot.

Mr. Callahan: However, what my friend is addressing is the question of organization of workers. He is addressing the question of people exercising their rights under the Labour Relations Act.

I am not for one minute saying that if part-time employees are being treated badly, there should not be some way to address that issue. However, I am not for one minute agreeing with the resolution that the panacea or the way to resolve it is to create a charter of rights and include it in the Labour Relations Act and the Employment Standards Act. It does not apply. There is nothing in the act that denies these rights to a part-time worker.

Mr. Mackenzie: The member is naïve.

Mr. Callahan: I may be naïve, but if one reads the plain print as contained in the statute, the statute does not do that, and if it does not do that, the only conclusion I can come to is that what happens is that part-time people who join a union wind up in a position where they do not have as much clout as the full-time employees because there are not many of them, and the

collective agreement that is negotiated is not quite as effective as it would be for the full-time employees.

A bill was put forward by my colleague the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) that perhaps would address some of the inequities that exist. However, they are not the result of any legislation on the books that I have read and that is referred to in the honourable member's motion.

I would be more than happy to support a motion if it were reworded and if I could be shown the part-time workers were being discriminated against.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: I am pleased to join the debate on this resolution and to indicate at the outset to the member for Beaches-Woodbine that I will be pleased to support it.

I am quite surprised by the remarks made by the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan). If I follow his argument, I am sure employers across Ontario are celebrating in the streets at this very moment. It has been brought to their attention by the member for Brampton that there is nothing whatsoever in the Employment Standards Act or the Labour Relations Act that prohibits them from providing benefits on a pro rata basis for part-time workers, and now that they are disabused of that misimpression, they will all run out and do so.

That is what I took from my honourable friend's speech. If I am wrong, then I stand to be corrected, but I think the point is that there is nothing in those acts or in any other government legislation which indicates that these people should have the right to benefit, and there is no legislative framework that allows them to benefit from these things.

I take the member back to the report of the select committee on pension reform. It reported in 1982. As I look around the chamber, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor), who was here a few minutes ago, was the chairman of that committee. There are several other members of the assembly as now constituted who sat, as I did, on that committee. I think one of the most important recommendations of that select committee of this House in 1982 was the recommendation which read as follows:

"The royal commission and the select committee heard many representations on the subject of part-time employment and pension plans. The royal commission was convinced, and the select committee is also convinced, that the time has now come for part-time workers to be given the opportunity, if they wish it, to participate in employment pension plans. The select committee supports the principle of the royal commission's proposal and the committee recommends that: When a durable employment relationship exists between an employer and a part-time employee, the employee should be given the opportunity to participate voluntarily in the employer's pension plan."

I suggest again to the member for Brampton that I think there is nothing I can see in the resolution of the member for Beaches-Woodbine that is inconsistent with that resolution which was endorsed by all three parties. I do not believe the member for Beaches-Woodbine is saying that all people who work part-time, under any circumstances, with an employer in this province should be obliged, say in the case of a contributory plan, to contribute to pensions and other benefits that they may not wish to contribute to. I do not believe, Marion, that is what you are saying.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Beaches-Woodbine.

Mr. Gillies: Pardon me, Mr. Speaker.

What I see in the resolution is an expression of the concern that I believe many of us in this House share, that the right should exist for people to participate in such plans when they choose. Also, when part-time workers are part of a collective bargaining unit, they should have the same rights under the contract with regard to these issues, whether they are part-time or full-time. That is reasonable and supportable.

I might add when our leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), the former Treasurer, was the minister responsible for pensions, he spoke a number of times on this very subject. It has been a position of our party and we were moving towards the proposition or benefits to part-time workers. I suspect the legislation first introduced may have borne some resemblance to that brought in by the Chairman of Management Board to cover the public sector first and move on to the private sector.

It is worth while to comment on the statement made by the Chairman of Management Board in the House today. I believe the proposal the government is putting forward, as was spoken to by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), is flawed. I believe the government should have framed the legislation in terms similar to the resolution of the select committee. Where a durable relationship exists between the employee and the employer, in this case the government of Ontario or its agency, the employee should then

have the right to the same sorts of benefits provided to full-time employees.

What the minister has brought in is restrictive and inflexible, saying, and I quote from her statement: "The hours of work for the job must be regularly scheduled. It must be either, firstly, less than full-time but not less than 14 hours per week, or less than 20 full days, but not less than nine full days over a period of four consecutive weeks."

There are employees of government agencies, specifically in the case of our hospitals–nurses and nursing assistants–who work part-time. They work on any number of various shift arrangements arrived at between them and their employer. I checked with St. Joseph's Hospital in my own riding of Brantford and found that an arrangement may involve three days of work one week and as many as seven to 10 days off before coming back to work one, two or three days on a regularly set schedule.

I am sure I am not telling any members anything they do not know when I say that full-time nurses and nursing assistants have very great variations in their schedules. They can work seven days straight, be off for five, work two, be off for another two, and so on. These are the sorts of things we have to do to staff institutions which function 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I share the concern already expressed in this House that the policy brought in by the Chairman of Management Board is going to exclude many part-time workers who should be benefiting from the right to pro rata benefits. I believe there should be some discretion. It may not be the chosen option of all part-time workers to participate in benefit and pension plans where they are contributory.

If somebody is working three, four, six or eight hours a week in a mom-and-pop corner store to supplement income–perhaps a working woman where the main source of income for the household is the man, or vice versa–that person may not intend to have a durable relationship with that employer and may not want to deduct from what may be a very modest pay package to contribute towards a pension plan which would pay next to nothing when it matures. We all recognize that.

I happen to believe that if a plan in that kind of business exists for the benefit of the full-time workers, it should be at the discretion of the employees. I do not believe the Legislature or the employer or anyone else should make that decision for them. If they are working eight hours a week and want to contribute so they end up with a pension benefit when they retire of $20 or $30 a month, surely that should be their option.

If they do not want to do that and they want to take home as part of their pay package the money that would be contributed, they should have that option too. I cannot believe what I am saying is inconsistent with the suggestion put forward by the member for Beaches-Woodbine in her resolution.

I also believe we have to maintain flexibility in the case of students, as mentioned by the member for Cambridge. I cannot imagine many students who work two or three months every summer to make income to return to college or university in the fall would necessarily want deductions made for pension or benefit purposes. The odds are extremely remote that a student will develop any sort of durable relationship with a part-time summer employer following graduation. Let us face it, when one is 17, 18 or 19 and saving to go to college or university or to go back to college or university, the odds are that one wants that money in the bank account then. One does not want to be banking a portion of it for a retirement which, at that age, is many years down the road.

Assuming the member has brought in her resolution with that kind of flexibility in mind–wishing to afford the protection we want to afford to part-time workers who want it, but not wishing to include those who do not want it for various reasons–I have no problem in supporting it.

The situation is that there is a movement in our labour force in Canada towards part-time work. That movement is viewed with some alarm by the labour movement and other observers, as we see the erosion of full-time employment in some areas of our work force. I had the opportunity to speak to the retail workers' union about this subject this week.

Inasmuch as I see this resolution moving towards addressing some of the concerns we have in this area, especially those applying to female workers, I will be supporting the resolution.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Hamilton Mountain has up to nine minutes because of the time reserved by the member for Beaches-Woodbine.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: I rise in support of the resolution by the member for Beaches-Woodbine. As the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) suggested in his last few remarks, part-time work is becoming an area of increasing

concern to the labour movement and even to many unorganized workers in Ontario. It is becoming a concern for a set of very real reasons. It is important for us to focus on and understand them during the debate on this resolution this afternoon.

There are two sides to the shift to part-time work that is occurring in our society. We can be sure the shift will continue in a number of the major sectors of our economy–especially throughout the retail sector, but also in others such as the entertainment, hotel and tourism sectors.

As more service-oriented industries come on stream with the technological changes we have seen over the past decade, we will see greater shifts to part-time employment. We will see greater numbers of young people in this province never having a single full-time job such as our parents and most of us have had in our lives. In addition, in many industries that have traditionally employed large numbers of full-time people and small numbers of part-time people, we are seeing increasing numbers of part-time people.

Some attribute the reduction in the number of full-time positions and the increasing number of part-time people to efforts on the part of some retail chains in this country to break unions. Some attribute it strictly to cost-saving or maximization of profits. Strangely, both seem to relate to the same thing ulitimately, because most employers in that sector view the union as a cost albatross, as an excessive cost in the operation of the enterprise.

In the past we have seen full-time and part-time employees pitted against each other; now we see it growing, especially with full-time employees of long standing who are threatened with the prospect of being replaced by part-timers. They are obviously resentful of desperate people who are prepared to accept even part-time work with no benefits at very low rates of pay substantially below the full-time rate, especially if the full-time rate happens to be under a union collective agreement.

We have a situation where part-time people who are being opposed by full-time workers in an establishment, chain or set of enterprises feel resentful because they have been out on the street for a year, a year and a half or two years. Any unemployment insurance they may have had has long since run out. Perhaps they never had any in the first place because they are young people who have never had a job. These people seeking part-time employment are beginning to feel very resentful towards those who are trying to protect full-time jobs.

The things set out in this resolution will start to impede the building of barriers between these two categories of employees; they will start to equalize the balance. We need better legislation in this province on the minimum wage for part-timers. Part of the reason employers see part-time employment as an advantage is that, generally speaking, they can avoid paying benefits, except in some of the very strongest of trade union situations. They can avoid what in 1986 is a fairly substantial cost item, a benefits package, which usually includes life insurance, extended health coverage, disability insurance, a pension plan, a dental plan and any number of other items.

To legislate prorated benefits packages for the part-time people in this province would equalize that situation and would substantially reduce the benefit of part-time employment to an employer. It would ultimately reduce the slide of permanent, full-time employment into increasing numbers of part-time jobs, and it would give the part-time employee an economic boost or assist which he or she does not have now.

Part-time employees in Ontario are sort of the disadvantaged disadvantaged. They are in a situation where they are earning not only a minimum wage, but also a minimum wage which in most cases is below the basic minimum wage in the legislation.

Because of the cost of the benefits package and because most of the benefits that are available in the package cannot be bought privately by those part-time employees on an individual basis, the only social coverage they have in Ontario is, essentially, whatever they pay on their low wage rate for unemployment insurance premiums, their Ontario health insurance plan, which they must buy directly from this government and perhaps, if they are lucky, an extended health package bought privately through Blue Cross of Ontario, for example. They will have access to no other benefits and no other protections for themselves and their families.

My time is almost up, Mr. Speaker, because you said nine minutes and the clock started at 10 minutes.

The situation for part-time employees in this province is a dramatic one. I urge all the members of this Legislature to support this resolution, even if they can see some niggling little part of it they do not like, so we can get on with the job of encouraging the government to develop legislation that we can debate, have

public hearings on and do all the rest of the things that need to be done to sort out all the wrinkles.

It is a problem that is going to escalate rapidly over the next few years as we see the continuing shift to part-time employment in this province. Now is the time for us to start the job of resolving those problems.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Beaches-Woodbine has five minutes and 29 seconds.

Ms. Bryden: I have been very interested in the comments of the speakers and I sense the majority of them do support the principle of the bill. It is a long-overdue bill, which is particularly needed in the private sector.

While we welcome the initiatives by the new government and the tentative initiatives by the previous government to extend benefits to part-time workers, there are still large numbers not eligible. My colleague the member for Hamilton East pointed this out. The government must set a better example if it is going to encourage the private sector to stop this discrimination against part-time workers.

4:30 p.m.

I find it almost impossible to understand how the second speaker on the Liberal side could believe the present legislation would automatically provide benefits for part-timers. In many cases, the number of hours worked limits them from being covered. There is simply no legislation compelling the employer to provide benefits. I am sure if the member had met with very many part-time workers, he would have found their efforts to obtain benefits have been fought and there is no legislative compulsion on employers to provide benefits. There is also no legislative compulsion on employers to provide a private pension plan for either full-time or part-time workers. This has to be changed as well.

I would like to congratulate the member for London South (Ms. E. J. Smith) on her very strong support for the principle of equal treatment for part-time and full-time workers and for benefits on a pro rata basis. I agree with her that it will take some time to work out the legislation, but that should not deter us from establishing the principles today.

She made particular reference to the importance of this legislation for women, who constitute a majority percentage of the part-timers in this province and who will be joined by many other workers, both men and women, in the next few years as the economy changes, automation takes place and high technology changes the job picture. That is the reason for all of us to support the principle. I hope the government will act on working out the details and bring in legislation as soon as possible.

I would like to remind the members that in 1984 the New Democratic Party had a task force on the subject of the future of work and employment that travelled around the province. We discovered the complaints about the lack of pro rata benefits for part-timers were almost universal. We ran into them in almost every brief we heard in every city or town in the province. Of course, the report recommended very strongly that the situation be remedied by a charter of rights for part-time workers.

I am rather disappointed that while the Progressive Conservative members are still stressing the public service more—this was an area in which they made some moves on part-time benefits—they are not stressing the need to make sure the private sector also brings in fair benefits for part-time workers. I do not know why they did not change the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act while they were in power. Maybe the same reluctance to ask the private sector to get into this area is still inhibiting them. I appreciate the remarks of the speakers from the Progressive Conservative Party, although I understand one member is opposing it. I hope he may reconsider. I am not sure how the other one is going.

This is an issue of great importance and I think it is time we moved ahead in this field of legislation to protect a very exploited group of workers.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the alloted time for this item of business. It will be dealt with further at 5:50 p.m.

WATER TREATMENT FUND

Mr. South moved, seconded by Mr. Henderson, resolution 27:

That in the opinion of this House, since many companies, institutions and municipalities in Ontario take water directly from our natural watercourses and ground water and, after processing it, discharge the used water back into those watercourses, thus putting a substantial stress on the environment, the government of Ontario should introduce legislation to establish a fund for the restoration and preservation of the environment by assessing a charge to be levied on all large prime water takers in Ontario and based on the amount of water taken.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Frontenac-Addington has up to 20 minutes and may reserve any part of that time for a windup for the debate.

Mr. South: I will take approximately 15 minutes and will reserve the remainder of the time at the end to answer questions and provide a summary.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to the Legislative Assembly a matter that has been of concern to me for some time, that being the preservation and restoration of the environment in our province. I am standing before the Legislature today to gain support for the establishment of a fund to be used solely–and I repeat, solely–for the preservation and restoration of our environment.

What is the rationale behind this? In today's industrial or post-industrial society, our environment is under continuing and increasing stress caused by the multitude of old and exotic new products. These stresses are brought about either by the products themselves–that is, pesticides–the waste produced during manufacturing or the final disposal of the product.

In all of these cases, water is being used at some point. At present we are continually withdrawing a great deal of water on both sides of the international border for a wide variety of uses. Most of that water is eventually returned to the system, more often than not into a watercourse. This waste water, no matter how well treated, still places stress on the receiving watercourse and on the environment.

Ontario and our neighbours on the Great Lakes basin are water-based societies. Together we have a 12-billion-litre-a-day water consumption habit, which could be doubled by the year 2000. There is a real need to think of water in a new way. We cannot take anything in our environment for granted, including water. Thus, by placing a charge against waste discharges, we are attempting to better relate the cost of environmental protection to the user and/or abuser.

This method would encourage water conservation as well if it were a decision by the Legislature in the near future to charge on the basis of quality. Then the people of Ontario would have an effective tool for encouraging better-quality waste effluents.

Why develop a fund rather than a tax? Many of the diseases of today are induced environmentally rather than by causative bacterial or viral organisms. These environmental diseases often require many years of low-level exposure before symptoms occur. Bacterial infections, on the other hand, are generally manifest in days or weeks.

4:40 p.m.

When causes and manifestations are close, it becomes easier to raise money; therefore, taxing for these types of diseases does work. However, it is very difficult to raise money on the basis of what might happen in the future. It has been relatively easy to raise tax money to fight the causes of infections with incubation periods that are fairly short; that is, typhoid fever, gastrointestinal diseases, etc. Conversely, it has often been politically expedient to cut or reduce the assignment of tax money to environmental stresses, hence diseases which may not occur for 10 or 20 years down the road.

Good examples of this are the recent number of cases of lung problems with workers at the old Johns-Manville plant in Scarborough. Their medical problems were not manifest for a number of years after the fact. The Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York, is another good example in which the problem was not manifest for at least 25 years after the fact.

In the past, the use of taxes to control natural disease organisims has been the government's practice. However, this system will not work as well for the longer time range of industrial environmental stresses and diseases of today.

Look at the imbalance of social money in treatment versus preventive medicine. At present, 95 per cent of provincial money for the delivery of health services is allocated for treatment medicine and less than five per cent for preventive medicine. It is my contention we must include the environment in the category of preventive medicine.

The environment affects us all: the healthy and the sick, the wealthy and the poor, the employed and the unemployed. Some medical experts now attest the majority of hospital patients are there because of environmentally induced diseases. The continuing and cumulative effect of acid rain on vegetation in our lakes, the fish with large cancerous growths we are finding in the Great Lakes, and the appearance of breeding problems in gulls are all obvious symptoms of a stressed environment which slowly and subtly affects our health.

I put forward a method which will include a levy on all large-use water dischargers who are prime water takers. Prime water takers are those who take water directly from watercourses or the ground. Large dischargers or takers would be those in excess of 10,000 gallons daily. This would eliminate small individual takers such as farmers.

The charge I propose would be based on a rate of a few cents per 1,000 gallons. It would

initially be based only on quantity. It is anticipated that some 500 municipalities and 600 industries would be affected by this charge.

As far as billing is concerned, it could be on a monthly or quarterly basis. This would require only a limited administrative unit. The number of customers would be similar in size to many small municipal utilities and commissions.

What is the expected revenue and cost? At a charge of one cent per 1,000 gallons, the proposed fund would receive $44 million on a yearly basis. This would result in the following yearly costs:

For the average householder, the charge would be 55 cents per year. For the steel industry, in total, the cost would be $2 million a year. For the pulp and paper industry, it would be $1.2 million yearly. For Ontario Hydro, the cost would be $32 million a year. In other words, Hydro would be paying 70 per cent of the cost of this fund and, yes, the consumer of electricity would be paying a higher rate.

But why should we not? For too long, many of the costs of products we consume, and the fact that we are supposed to be getting cheap electrical energy, have been externalized on to the rest of us or externalized on to the environment.

Ontario Hydro, the second-largest producer of acid rain in the province, is stressing the environment. When we consider that one of the worst pollution problems in the Great Lakes is the weed growth, in particular cladophera, and that the cooling waters from Ontario Hydro thermal and nuclear plants are generating these growths, it is time for Ontario Hydro to bear its fair share of the cost of protecting our environment.

The fund I have spoken of would establish a dependable revenue source for restoring and preserving our environment. The utilization of a revenue-producing fund for the protection of our environment makes political sense. The proposal will result in water conservation and give incentive to the production of better quality waste effluents.

I ask members of the Legislature for their participation in this debate and their many helpful suggestions.

Water conservation is an issue that affects us all, but only now is the importance of this issue becoming clearly recognized. This recognition is essential to the continued growth and wellbeing of our province, to give the issue of environmental preservation the attention it requires before the problem becomes acute and time runs out for remedial action.

The recent finding of dioxin in treated water supplies indicates we are too much after the fact; we do not even know where it is coming from. We need to put more money into the environment and this fund will do just that. It will provide for increased research. Even in the field of inorganic materials, the heavy metals, we still do not know all the answers to these very important chronic toxic questions.

As to the elements we have around us that are naturally occurring, we still do not know all the answers to the problems they are creating in regard to our health.

As to the new organic-type materials that now are with us, the polychlorinated biphenyls and the dioxins, we have barely scratched the surface. It is time to put more money into environmental research, it is time to provide for such things as intervener funding, and it is time to see that we restore the infrastructures of the basic water and sewage systems in the province. This fund could be used for those purposes.

I will appreciate comments from the other members of the Legislature.

Mrs. Grier: When I read this motion by the honourable member, and he was kind enough to speak to me about it, I found myself rather divided as to whether the motion was worthy of support or ought not to be supported. Obviously, I am in favour of preservation and restoration of the environment, and my party has for a long time been calling for an environmental fund that would preserve, contribute to and pay the costs of restoring the environment where it has been damaged.

My consideration was whether this motion, which on the surface sounded so good, was worthy of support or whether the implications of the motion and the methods by which the member suggested such a fund be created carried the seeds of much more damage and danger to the environment than the worthiness of the sentiments expressed. I have come to the latter conclusion and I have to say that hearing the comments this afternoon have reinforced my conclusion that this motion in its present form ought not to be supported.

4:50 p.m.

Especially when I hear the honourable member describe the implications of this motion on Ontario Hydro, the contribution of $32 million from Hydro to this fund based on the usage of water in order to pay for the cost of cleaning up such things as acid rain, it seems to me that the

one element in its operation where Hydro does not do a great deal of damage to the environment is in its use of water.

What we ought to do is to encourage it to have more hydraulically produced power rather than to discourage it by putting an extra tax on the use of that water. What we do not want it to do is to build more nuclear power or to use the coal-fired generating plants that contribute to acid rain, so I do not find the logic of that argument very convincing.

As I said, our party has for a long time supported the idea of an environmental repair fund. However, one of the difficulties with the ways of producing such a fund that are in this motion is that the quantity of water taken does not necessarily bear a relationship to the toxicity of the discharge. Surely what we want to do is have those people who are contributing to the degradation of the environment because of the contaminants they admit to the water contribute to the cost of the fund, not merely those people who use water in their processes.

The other difficulty is that the burden of the contribution to the fund under this motion would fall largely on municipalities. The member has indicated that he thinks about 500 municipalities and about 600 industries would be forced to contribute, because it would be based on volume. Municipalities and the water they discharge do much less damage to the environment than do many small industries. There are far more than 600 industries in this province that are discharging effluents that contaminate our watercourses. Municipalities are not in a position to bear the burden of this extra fund.

The other difficulty I see with the resolution is that it appears to encourage the policy of diluting our pollution, which has been followed for far too long in this province. If one dilutes the quantity of effluent and the toxicity of what one is discharging, that is somehow okay. Instead, we must encourage the treatment of that effluent by those industries. We must encourage them to discharge fewer toxic materials. We must encourage developers and municipalities to lessen the damage done to watercourses by storm water by encouraging better storm-water management. This can be done and it can result in lessening the erosion that is now frequently caused by development as our cities expand.

The superfund that my party and I would like to see in place is based on the principle that the polluter must pay. It would be financed by those industries that use hazardous chemicals and therefore contribute in their discharges, be they to watercourses or to the air, to the degradation of our environment. I would like to see a fee imposed on each manufacturer, importer or generator of hazardous substances, that fee to be based on the volume of hazardous substances used by that industry.

In addition, we need to have a tonnage fee for hazardous wastes taken to landfill sites. In the motion as proposed by the member, those landfill sites or those companies that have landfill sites on their own property and which are leaching into our watercourses, as we have seen in the St. Clair River area, would not be forced to contribute to the superfund.

The necessity of such a fund has become obvious and I would agree with the speaker on his enumeration of the problems we face in our environment. My difficulty is with the method by which he seeks to effect a cleanup.

We must have a fund to pay for the detection, the inspection and the cleanup of all our hazardous industrial waste sites. We must be much stricter on those industries that are using materials which, in the form in which they are discharged, contribute to the problems we are finding and are going to continue to find unless we get very strict in our enforcement, laying of charges, inspections and the fines we levy on polluters. While the sentiments of the motion are worthy, I cannot support the methods employed.

Mr. Haggerty: I want to join in the debate this afternoon to express my concerns and viewpoints in support of my colleague the member for Frontenac-Addington. Resolution 27 states that "the government of Ontario should introduce legislation to establish a fund for the restoration and preservation of the environment by assessing a charge to be levied on the large prime water takers in Ontario based on the amount of water taken."

I can recall my first speech in the Legislature in the 1967-68 session. The issue raised in my maiden speech was a topic on the minds of every citizen in Ontario: water pollution in the Great Lakes and management of our natural resources. At that time I quoted from one of America's great environmental advocates, Barry Commoner, who said, "We are poisoning ourselves and our posterity with chemicals." After 18 years, that statement is still accurate.

The member's resolution provides an alternative solution to environmental cleanup, providing a healthier environment and thereby improving our ecosystem. Many citizens in Ontario and those bordering states along the Great Lakes basin are angered through their growing aware-

ness of the vast scope of the toxic waste problem. The Environmental Protection Agency in the United States has stated there are 66,000 chemicals now being used in the US and it has classified 60,000 of them as potentially, if not definitely, hazardous to human health.

Grave and marked environmental risks are present every day. No doubt the new Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has touched only the tip of the hazardous substances found in water, air and land. Current laws to protect our environment are weak in our courts. An impaired driver is treated more severely before our courts than many industries in Ontario which continue to pollute and threaten the lives of many people. This resolution provides a measure to control pollution and funding to abate pollution problems.

A user-pay approach to water consumption is not something new in Ontario. Under the authority of the Public Lands Act, and subject to more specific water-power lease agreements, the provincial government levies water-power rentals for royalty charges on Ontario Hydro and other parties who generate electricity at hydro generating stations along most waterways in Ontario. These charges are related to electricity generated at each station.

For 1985, Ontario Hydro will be assessed at an estimated rental of $83 million and seven other private operators will pay $2.4 million to the provincial Treasury. Ontario Hydro does not pay a charge when using water for cooling purposes at its coal or nuclear generating stations. Similarly, other than meeting required environmental and water resource permit conditions, other major industrial or municipal users of water are not assessed charges equivalent to rentals for the withdrawal and use of water. Water rentals might therefore be regarded as an example of a user-pay approach to water consumption which might be applicable for expansion to other major water users.

5 p.m.

Increasing a user-pays approach to water consumption was suggested in the recent report of the federal inquiry on water policy in 1985, better known as the Pearse report. Professor Pearse, a resource economist at the University of British Columbia, stated: "Sound water management program: We recommend that the government shift its policy from one that emphasizes increasing supplies"–of water–"to one that stresses managing demands. More important, we recommend that the government adopt the principle that the beneficiaries should pay for the water they use and the cost of providing it."

This policy, which depends upon co-operation with the provinces, is intended not only to raise revenues but also to provide incentives to conserve resources, to distribute costs more equitably, and to foster individual and corporate responsibility in the use of water resources.

Furthermore, all these recommended changes in programs are designed to produce a water policy that responds to the present emergency need. They call for increased attention to the management of water demand to balance the traditional emphasis on developing supplies, a more balanced consideration of all the direct and indirect benefits and costs associated with water development, and an increased reliance on the beneficiaries of water programs to bear the costs instead of the taxpayer. They also imply a shift in policy priorities towards the new threats to water quality.

As for a user-pay approach to water use in a more general sense, water rentals might be cited as a specific example of a water-use charge. Based upon extensive discussions with research and the water management branch, it appears water rentals are the only current type of water-use payment levied by Ontario. When water users such as municipalities and industry seek to divert or use water from lakes and rivers, they must secure the necessary approvals, those falling primarily under the applicable environmental water resources legislation, but no ongoing user payments are made to the provincial Treasury.

For example, in contrast to the water rentals for its hydraulic generating stations, Ontario Hydro is not required to pay comparable levies for water at the Nanticoke, Bruce and Pickering generating stations where water is used as a coolant, or for future use of Lake Ontario water for cooling at Darlington. In the case of water diverted for cooling, Ontario Hydro is required to meet appropriate environmental approval standards relating primarily to the temperature and quality of the water when it is returned to the lake.

Any move towards a more generalized user-pay charge would likely require appropriate legislative and administrative changes to ensure the province has the appropriate mandate to institute such charges. Water usage charges could be based upon the quantity of water withdrawn and its condition, such as the degree of contamination, when the water is returned to the river or lake. A water usage charge would

likely require modification in government policy.

In the United States they have what they call a superfund approach to the user-pay pollution cleanup. Briefly reviewed, it is an example of a public policy user-pay approach to pollution cleanup. Even though superfund revenues are directed towards the cleanup of toxic waste sites by the United States federal Environmental Protection Agency, the financing mechanism for this fund represents a user-pay approach to pollution cleanup. This example may therefore be relevant to the consideration of a user-pay approach to water pollution cleanup.

While there have been administrative problems in the operation of the superfund related mainly to questions over the adequacy of funding from public and private resources to achieve national cleanup, the general principle of taxing polluters for cleanup may be relevant to the water pollution problem. The allocation for the superfund in the United States has been estimated at US$1.6 billion.

As we look at that and listen to comments from the other members saying they are hesitant to support this resolution, I think it is the direction and the right way to go.

A recent article in the Toronto Star was headlined, "Cleanup of the Great Lakes Threatened by Political Tug of War in Washington." I think the member's resolution is trying to get this political tug of war out of this chamber in order to get some immediate action on cleaning up the Great Lakes and other drinking water throughout every community in Ontario. It is one way to generate revenue.

Once we start putting a tax in this particular area on to all industry, it is a cost of production in Ontario. We had a spill in Lake St. Clair related to the Dow Chemical spill–or the blob, one might say. I understand that may cost the province $1 million. The industry may be charged $1 million, but that $1 million comes out of consolidated revenue. Really the polluter pays nothing.

The intent of this resolution is to get the person responsible for the production and the cause of the pollution problem to pay. If he had to pay for the use of that water, then perhaps we would get into the stage of recycling. I cite one case, the International Nickel Co. in Port Colborne, where within the last 10 years it has put in a pollution abatement program that works successfully. In fact, the program was reclaiming some of the heavy metals going out into the lake that could cause some serious contamination problems.

I understand there has been no input from the Conservative Party–

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. The member's time has expired.

Mr. Haggerty: I just want to make one–

The Deputy Speaker: No. I am sorry. The time expired some time past.

Mr. Haggerty: I hope the members will support the resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: Even prior to hearing my remarks, I hear the third party starting to react. I guess it must be an anticipatory knee-jerk reaction of some sort.

I am pleased to enter into this debate because the resolution being proposed by the member for Frontenac-Addington is an interesting concept. It is one with which I do not necessarily totally disagree, but I think the problem he is trying to get at could be addressed in some different fashion, and may well be addressed in some of the measures we have in place in Ontario at the present time.

At the outset, I would like to suggest the amount of water consumed by an industry or an organization of whatever kind does not necessarily bear any relationship to the amount of stress on the environment. In other words, the consumption of water in certain instances such as, for example, the Great Lakes at the present time, could well be an environmental benefit. I know there are some areas that would gladly see the level of water available to them reduced rather minimally. I know some members opposite know what I am speaking about because the situation is rather desperate as a result of historic high levels of water.

If the intent of the honourable member is to improve on discharges into the natural environment, I think there are a number of other ways to go about it. I believe we have a process in place now, albeit imperfect, that can be either strengthened or improved upon to accomplish the end that may be inherent in the ballot item we have before us. For example, we have regulations in place and control orders that can be put into place by the Ministry of the Environment to limit discharges and to make absolutely certain those discharges are at safe levels.

If those regulations are unacceptable, if they should be strengthened, then in my view it is the responsibility of the ministry to do that. I do not believe it is an appropriate measure to bring in some form of a back-door tax, if you will, some form of a new level of taxation which we have not

had before, in order to, in a fashion, adjust the amount of water consumed with some kind of an environmental issue because the two are not necessarily related.

The Minister of the Environment, or other ministries in concert with the minister, can certainly develop the kind of regulatory control that may be necessary. As we develop further technology and testing procedures and so forth, we will be able to detect more contaminants in our natural environment and, as well, propose certain methods by which we can control the problem those contaminants pose from an environmental standpoint.

5:10 p.m.

I have concerns about the suggestion that this might be looked upon as a form of superfund in some fashion. The superfund in the United States is collected through the normal mechanism of taxation. If the government decides it wants to collect more money from industries in the form of taxation in order to provide funding for a superfund, or to clean up contaminated areas if the government's intervention is required, it can do so. It has the power and the ability to do that today. It does not have to do that kind of thing through a water-use measure that is in some way associated with a taxation policy.

I have concerns about proceeding with a taxation policy that incorporates a hidden or clandestine tax which would be very difficult to relate to some forms of environmental stress or environmental contamination as a result of simply using the water. So I would caution the honourable member that, although I have sympathy for what he is suggesting and I have certain agreement with the thrust of the resolution that is before us, I cannot support it as it has areas that cause me difficulty because they are misguided.

From the standpoint of industries that may cause problems with respect to their use of and consumption of water in Ontario and, I might add, in most parts of Canada, it is usually not because of the volume of water they are using, thankfully. We are in a province with a tremendous amount of water. Our natural resources are such that we do have the capacity to use large volumes of water as long as we treat it in a sensitive and careful fashion. Of course, we must return it to the environment without contaminating or in any way degrading or lowering it with respect to its future usage for either recreation or drinking water potential. But what we have to do with our industrial community—and I say this in a sincere fashion to my colleague, the member for Frontenac-Addington—is make sure that the guidelines, the rules and regulations are very clearly understood.

We are coming into an era where we have very rapidly—only in the course of the last couple of years, as an example—been able to sample at parts per quadrillion. I was speaking the other day with people who are in the agricultural community at the University of Guelph agricultural college. In the early 1970s they were quite pleased if they were able to sample at something in the order of five parts per million. We have made so many advances in terms of better understanding the question. There are far more questions than there are answers to a lot of these issues, as I well appreciate, but we have to establish very clear, understandable guidelines relating to what is proper behaviour for an industry.

As an example, I took some issue with the fact that the recent federal-provincial report suggested that one of the industries in my area was producing 370 times more than accepted standard for a particular contaminant, the name of which escapes me at the moment. It is interesting to note, in fairness, even though that company may well be "polluting" with regard to whatever standard one might establish for that industry, that the standard was only established on January 10. The rules of the ball game would suggest to me that if one is going to shout from the rooftops "This is a contaminator of the environment and a major polluter," one would at least let them know what the guidelines are. What are the standards? What is it that you want them to achieve?

The vast majority—not all, I say to the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier)—of industries in this province thankfully are responsible and will not contaminate the environment if they understand the ground rules. Those that do not follow the direction of the government of the day and the standards and levels of quality established by the Ministry of the Environment should be prosecuted.

I say to the minister, who is not in the House today, I will have no objection whatever to an increase in the levels of fines and prosecutions that may occur as they relate particularly to chronic violators of environmental laws. I proposed that very measure when I sat in that chair some long time ago. I apologize to this House that I did not have time to bring those measures forward, but I am in sympathy with the direction that was suggested by our minister and he is now working on that.

There are ways we can achieve the same kind of direction and objectives that I know the

member for Frontenac-Addington very sincerely wants to attain. I cannot agree entirely with the way in which he has put it before us. I share his sentiments and wish I could be totally supportive of the ballot but I will support him in another way.

Mr. Charlton: I rise to speak to the motion by the member for Frontenac-Addington, and perhaps I should start by saying he and I had a rather lengthy, and at some moments heated, discussion about the resolution prior to Christmas. I hope the member understands my position to some extent.

In principle, I support what he is trying to accomplish by this resolution, and I certainly congratulate him for the sentiment which is herein expressed. With some limited changes, I could be prepared to support this resolution, but I cannot support it as it is here before us and I would like to go through a number of reasons.

The problems we have in Ontario, specifically in the Great Lakes but obviously in a number of our other watercourses and water bodies in this province, have to be resolved; there is no question about that. Essentially, we have to find a way to make those major users of water pay, on the one hand, the cost of reclamation or reconditioning of the water that has been damaged in this province, and on the other hand, the cost of the long-term preservation of good-quality water resources in Ontario.

My problems evolve around some of the specific wording in this resolution. For example, in the very first line, "That in the opinion of this House, since many companies, institutions and municipalities in Ontario take water directly from," etc. If the word "municipalities" had been left out of that sentence I would find this resolution much more acceptable in an overall sense. I say that for two reasons.

First, the municipalities in Ontario are the creations of the provincial government and essentially are almost totally beholden to the government of the day. In most cases they are beholden for almost half of their funding, in some cases for more. They are responsible to the province for their debt, with respect to its creation in the first place, and its repayment.

5:20 p.m.

As we are all well aware in this House, the municipalities in Ontario have been through a particularly difficult period financially for the last 15 years; difficult because of the actions of the provincial government, perhaps not of the party now in power. If the party now in power were to move over the course of the next five, six or seven years to remedy many of the financial problems that were created for municipalities by its predecessor, then a resolution along these lines might be supportable.

There are municipalities, which are the creation of the provincial government, which are beholden to the provincial government for more than half of their funding. There are municipalities which have been in a constant battle with the government of Ontario for the past 12 to 15 years over declining grants, grants that did not keep up with inflation, grants that have put municipalities in a situation where many of them are now paying 100 per cent dollars out of the municipal coffers, i.e., the municipal property tax. Twelve or 15 years ago that expenditure for that service was funded almost 50-50 with funds from this province.

In my own municipality in the city of Hamilton in 1986, for the first time in the municipality's history–I think the member for Frontenac-Addington should understand the length of its history–it is using 100 per cent municipal tax dollars for seven services that in the past it never had to pay for totally. This situation is a direct result of the policy of the provincial government and its application of grants to municipalities.

Municipalities are the responsibility of this provincial government; so, too, are the environmental standards which municipalities are required to implement, both in the way they use the water they take out of our watercourses for use in communities and for the standards that set the conditions under which the water will be put back into those watercourses.

In my view, this resolution as set out here would help the the government of this province to avoid what I see as some very important aspects of its responsibility as a government to the municipalities and to the people who are residents of those municipalities.

With respect to companies, we have said on any number of occasions that the polluter must pay. We want to see provincial policy in this province reflect that. I have no real problem with the overall intent of this resolution as it relates to major companies that use large amounts of water in this province in applying a surcharge that would reflect the degree to which they alter the water they use before they put it back into our watercourses, whether it be altering it by temperature, which can cause environmental damage, or whether it be by adding other pollutants to that water.

We also have a third item which the member has chosen to throw into this resolution, namely,

institutions. The vast majority of the institutions in this province to which the member refers use water–institutions such as Ontario Hydro, which uses an awful lot of water in this province and adds substantial amounts of heat pollution to the water, and institutions such as hospitals, the underfunding of which we have so often talked about in this House. There are any number of other institutions which are directly the responsibility of this province and the government.

I say to the member for Frontenac-Addington, just before I run out of time, I would like to see him come back to this House at some point, or have one of his colleagues come back, with a resolution that sets out the same intent as this one does, to clean up our waterways and to keep them clean by applying the financial responsibility where the use is happening.

That resolution would also set out the responsibility of the government in Ontario for the major portion of what is set out as the problem in this resolution, that is, the municipalities and the majority of the major institutions in this province that happen to fall under the provincial government. Let us call a spade a spade. Let us set out the fact that the primary responsibility for the majority of damage that is being done in this province by municipalities and by institutions lies with this government. Let us set out that responsibility clearly and let us make funding available from the provincial coffers to clean up the water systems in Ontario.

Mr. D. W. Smith: I am pleased to join in the debate today on the resolution brought forward by my colleague the member for Frontenac-Addington. When I read the resolution, it seems to be a very interesting concept and a very timely resolution.

The interesting concept is that we would have to say that the plants along the Great Lakes system, or even on the tributaries that run into the Great Lakes, may have to consider as a cost of doing business the cleaning up or restoring of the environment, and they may have to think a little differently in the future.

It is very timely because of the revelations that have been brought forward or have come to light within the last few months through the Ministry of the Environment. It is time for us to be more aware of the problems in the environment. We have to start cleaning up the environment. The new technology we have in place today can gauge the amount of toxicity in the waters, but maybe this new technology is being created too quickly for the rest of us to understand.

I want to take members back a few years to when the plants were first developed and grew up along the Great Lakes. We who came up through the municipal system thought it was a wonderful thing to have these large plants springing up in our municipalities. They created a larger tax base and more assessment from which to draw taxes to provide better services to our ratepayers. We were very pleased to see them come into being. The plants also created a number of jobs for the people of our communities and enhanced the lifestyles of these people. Their lives were better because of them.

5:30 p.m.

In supporting this resolution, I do not want to sound as though we have to take so much away from the industries producing these products we use that it will put them out of business, but we have to make them aware that we have to start looking at this more closely and carefully than we have in the past. When these plants were built, this new technology I referred to did not exist. We did not even know that much about some of the products they produced. Therefore, they went about their business in somewhat of a haphazard way. Nobody felt there were too many pollution problems at that time.

I have used the products produced by some of these companies that have been built along the Great Lakes. They make life easier for a farmer such as me. We will spray some of these products on to our fields to control weed growth and make it easier for us to produce a better quality crop and possibly more of it. In some cases, they have helped us to produce too much and then we have had a problem in trying to get our commodity prices up. It has definitely made life easier for us on the farm and in other areas or businesses in our communities.

We may have come to the time now where we have to be more careful with the products these plants produce. The resolution of the member for Frontenac-Addington is starting to look at and address the issue of cleaning up this environment. He has his ideas or thoughts as to how this fund should be developed. If the government gets around to putting legislation into place, we cannot make it so costly that we run all our plants or institutions out of business. It should be enough that it makes us all aware that we have to be more careful.

I congratulate the member for Frontenac-Addington for bringing forth a resolution such as this. I can support it in principle. In closing, I want to say we have likely come to a point in history where more attention has to be given to

the environment so our children and grandchildren can safely enjoy their lifestyle. This resolution can possibly help accomplish the solution to this problem, or at least start to solve the problem.

Mr. South: I appreciate the comments and constructive criticisms of the members of the Legislature. In part, what I am proposing has been misunderstood. All members should appreciate that one of the things I am saying is that we all use water. When we use water in our home or wherever that has been treated at a sewage treatment plant, the effluent from that sewage treatment plant is put back into the watercourse and it puts stress on that watercourse.

We are all accessories to the fact. We are using water in our home and we are using the products of industry. We are criticizing industry because of what is out in the landfill sites, but we are using the products they produce. After we have used them, we flush them down the toilet or put them out in the garbage and they end up in our landfill sites.

We are stressing the environment; every water user is stressing the environment. This is the point. Initially, the idea is to keep the fund and the charge simple and base it on quantity only. It can be adjusted later on to concern itself also with quality.

A charge based only on quantity will also encourage conservation, in which we all have to be interested. I want to reiterate that Ontario Hydro is using large amounts of water, the largest amounts of water, in its thermal and nuclear generating plants. It is this cooling water which, when discharged back into our waterways, is stimulating one of the worst problems we have in the Great Lakes, that is, prolific weed growth. It is one of the worst pollution problems we face today.

Hydro is contributing to this stress. Why then should not its electrical rates reflect the stress it is putting on the environment? The member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) indicated we could use features for controlling pollution, such as control orders and telling industries the rules of the game. The problem is that no one knows whether some of the wastes these industries are producing are harmful or in what concentrations they could be harmful. The effects of some of these materials are subtle and will not be known for five, 10 or 20 years down the road.

In the way we tax and raise money and then try to assign those tax moneys to problems, it is very difficult to put those revenues aside for problems which will not be seen for 10, 20 or 30 years. To date, we have not been able to do it. This is an attempt to have a fund which is related to water use. I repeat that all water use is putting a stress on the environment. We could have this fund related to that water use and we could start to concern ourselves only with quantity of use. The fund could later be adjusted to concern itself with quality as well. If we got into that, we would be providing industry with an incentive to produce better-quality effluents.

The problems of the environment cannot properly be addressed in the context of assigning a proportion of tax money. They never have been and they never will. This is an effort to have a fund which will be generated and which will be in proportion to the stress on the environment. It will be in proportion to that use and/or abuse. I wish to thank the House for the opportunity to introduce this resolution.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the comments on that item. Standing order 64(f) says no question shall be put to the House before 5:50 p.m. Is there unanimous consent of the House to place these two questions?

Agreed to.

5:40 p.m.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Speaker: Ms. Bryden has moved resolution 4. If any members are opposed to a vote on this resolution, will they please rise? If not, shall the motion carry?

Mr. Barlow: No.

Mr. Speaker: No? I do not see five members standing in their places; therefore it is carried.

Motion agreed to.

WATER TREATMENT FUND

Mr. Speaker: The next item is the motion of resolution 27 by Mr. South. If any members are opposed to this motion, will they please rise?

Miss Stephenson: Are they opposed to voting?

Mr. Speaker: No. If 20 people stand, I will not put the question.

The question is, will the motion carry? Carried.

Mrs. Grier: No.

Mr. Speaker: No? All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members.

Mr. Haggerty: There are only four members standing.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, sorry. Maybe I should just place the question again.

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members. I must remind members it is a five-minute bell.

5:47 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. South's resolution, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Bossy, Callahan, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Epp, Fontaine, Fulton, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Henderson, Kerrio, Knight, McGuigan, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Polsinelli, Reycraft, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Sweeney, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Barlow, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Eves, Gigantes, Gillies, Grier, Hayes, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, McLean, Morin-Strom, O'Connor, Partington, Philip, Pollock, Pouliot, Reville, Rowe, Sheppard, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Taylor.

Ayes 25; nays 32.

Mr. Speaker: Does the government House leader have any information for the members of the House?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: To the best of my ability at the present time, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the remainder of this week and next week.

This evening and tomorrow, we will have the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

On Monday, February 10, in the afternoon we will have the estimates of Northern Development and Mines as needed for completion, followed by legislation as time permits, judiciously selected with the agreement of the House leaders from among the following bills: second reading of Bill 34, freedom of information; second reading and committee of the whole on Bill 3, transboundary pollution; Bill 70, Provincial Offences Amendment Act; Bill 72, Powers of Attorney Amendment Act; Bill 98, Foreign Arbitral Awards Act; Bill 66, Business Corporations Amendment Act; Bill 68, Securities Amendment Act; Bill 16, Public Commercial Vehicles Amendment Act; Bill 103, teachers' superannuation.

I say "judiciously selected with the agreement of the House leaders," and of course the other members, because the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Attorney General's critics all have additional responsibilities next week and may not be able to be here at all times for these bills, but we will do the best we can.

On Tuesday, February 11, in the afternoon we will have Bill 94, extra billing, with the vote at 5:45 p.m. The time in the afternoon will be split among the three parties. In the evening, we will do legislation not completed on Monday evening, as agreed.

On Wednesday, February 12, in the morning the usual three committees may sit; in the afternoon, we will continue legislation not completed on Tuesday evening.

Thursday, February 13, in the afternoon, the budget debate is to be finalized, the time to be divided equally among the three parties with the vote to be held at 5 p.m., followed by the supply bill and the prorogation address by His Honour.

I would also like to indicate that if the business proceeds more expeditiously than expected, the business for Thursday might very well be done on Wednesday afternoon. On the other hand, if it does not proceed as expeditiously as expected, it may be some time in March.

The House recessed at 5:53 p.m.

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Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, February 6, 1986

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES,
MINISTRY OF NORTHERN
DEVELOPMENT AND MINES
(continued)

On vote 801, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First I will give my response to the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier). The cabinet committee on northern development will consider a wide range of northern issues and proposals. This cabinet committee is not intended to be the forum for reviewing northern Ontario regional development applications. As I said before, this committee will be meeting with the regional development councils that will be forming starting in a few weeks. At the same time, it will listen to proposals from them and try to implement new initiatives for the north.

When reviewing the Nordev program, we will look at the Northern Ontario Development Corp. and the funds that are needed to support our northern programs. I have been assured of the support of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) on this point. After consultation with the people of the north, my ministry will probably recommend changes on NODC to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, because we feel there should be a new direction there too.

In response to the member for Kenora on winter roads, the northern Ontario resources transportation committee will continue to fund the road system. The NORT committee, as he knows, has assumed funding responsibility for the Pehtabun network, and I am prepared to consider proposals for that system's expansion. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications are studying routing alternatives for Big Trout Lake and Wunnummin Lake. NORT will continue to look to the federal government to provide financial assistance for initial construction activities.

Yesterday I discussed with my friend Mr. Crombie putting up more money for those roads, in the sense they put money up for the works program. My ministry will be prepared to continue the administration and maintenance of those roads, because we are having problems getting that together this year. As the member knows, sometimes Ottawa wants to cut everything. That is one of the reasons I met with Mr. Crombie yesterday to have an hour's discussion with him on native issues, and that was one we discussed.

That is my response to the member for Kenora.

I will now respond to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), who made a number of comments about the problems of northern Ontario. Many of those are similar to my view of things in our region. For example, on the unemployment statistics, I know that the unemployment numbers in the official federal statistics understate the problem. They do not include a lot of native unemployment. They do not take into account the rise in the welfare cases in many northern communities. Northerners know the real figures, and I will be working with them to improve them.

Perhaps the main difference between the member and myself is that I am more optimistic about our ability to do something about the challenges, with his help and the help of other northerners.

Another difference between the member and myself is that he is perhaps too quick to criticize the private sector for the current difficulties in the north. As a businessman, I know only too well the pressures that world competition has imposed on the north's primary industry.

Every industry, including the one I was in, made mistakes. So did governments. We were all caught in the squeeze of world competition. Now, the challenge is to respond quickly and co-operatively to these pressures. It will do no good to look for scapegoats, either in the corporations, in the labour movement, in the previous provincial government or in the federal government.

The member is correct in saying that many of the resource companies did well during the commodity boom; so did governments. Taxes paid by the mining industry rose dramatically in the mid-1970s. The government of the day could have used some of that windfall to make

provision for a rainy day. The fact is, it did not. Now we are playing catch-up ball with the help of northerners, including the member.

Northerners–companies, unions, communities–will have to pull together if we are to succeed. It is tempting to look at the creation of new crown corporations to deal with northern economic development, but the experience elsewhere is not encouraging.

The answer lies in co-operation, and I have started a process of real consultation on this basis.

The member raised a number of specific points. He asked what ideas we have to improve the situation. This government has many ideas, but we want to develop these in direct consultation with northerners and not impose them without discussion.

In the near future, a few weeks or a month, I will be presenting to the cabinet committee on northern development a document on how we see the north in the future. It will be a 10-year priority. This will be the basis on which the committee can begin its work.

This document is already in the hands of my deputy minister. He is already talking with other deputy ministers to try to see where we are going. I want to remind the member, however, that this document will be only a start for the committee. We could add to it or delete some things in it if the member does not like it. This study of what we feel are the problems in the north and where we should go was begun in September. We are prepared to make that public in a few weeks.

That is why we are forming regional development councils and that is why a responsive cabinet committee on northern development has been created.

The member for Algoma is a northerner himself, and is a member of the committee on resource-dependent communities, which I recently announced.

He has a unique opportunity to put forward realistic ideas for consideration, and I hope he does. I encourage him to table with the committee some of the suggestions he has made in these estimates debates for critical review. If the committee agrees with his suggestions, they will be passed to me for consideration and I will welcome this.

8:10 p.m.

The member has other comments and suggestions. One of these relates to the Fahlgren commission. He worries that nothing has happened. On the contrary, lots is happening. The member for Algoma has suggested a comprehensive response be prepared.

Rather than wait another eight years, this government is acting. Many of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment have already been dealt with, and those others that fall within the mandate of line ministries are being dealt with by them as quickly as possible.

While we still have work to do to address issues raised by the royal commission, it is important to know what has already been done:

We have pushed successfully for the Grassy Narrows and Islington settlement, an issue that started long ago;

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has been created;

Government is committed to a meaningful two-way form of public participation. Regional development councils in the north are currently being established by my ministry;

A new cabinet committee on northern development and a $100 million northern development fund have been created;

The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has established a native economic support program of $3 million;

The Ministry of Natural Resources has announced an independent audit of forest resources by Dr. Baskerville. I invite the member to talk to him. I understand he believes he has ample scope to do his job;

The Ministry of Natural Resources has announced a new approach to the provision of land for new reserves and expansions to existing reserves in the Nishnawbi-Aski nation;

A memorandum of understanding with the Nishnawbe-Aski nation is currently being negotiated and will serve to initiate negotiation of self-government covering many of the issues raised by Fahlgren;

A new $3-million native economic support program, through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, has been announced;

Current forest management practices of the Ministry of Natural Resources are based on a sustained yield concept, including forest management agreements;

The Ministry of Natural Resources uses the best seedlings available for regeneration;

Forest management agreements are continuing to be signed as funding allocations permit. It is expected that 75 per cent of licences will be covered by 1988;

The Mining Tax Act is being reviewed. We are reviewing it with the people of the north and have

initiated some presentations with the native people first because, by the end of a few months, the native problem with respect to mining will be part of the Mining Tax Act;

Research into rock bursts is part of the federal-provincial mining agreement signed recently;

The latest pollution abatement technology and techniques are currently used;

Support for the mining industry has been generous, including such programs as the Kirkland Lake initiatives program, the Black River-Matheson multi-year geological survey and Northern Ontario geological survey and exploration assistance in the Opapamiskan area;

The importance of tourism to the north has been recognized by the government and efforts for co-ordinated activities are currently being addressed by officials of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and my ministry. Those three ministries are part of this northern development committee;

A new investigation and enforcement branch of my ministry has been established and is operational through regional offices;

Passage of the spills bill and establishment of the Environmental Compensation Corp. provide for prompt compensation of pollution victims in cases of sudden, accidental pollution events;

New environmental assessment pre-submission consultation guidelines were published;

Bump-up provision is currently part of the class environmental assessment process;

Much has been done to build and improve transportation facilities, some of which were started by the previous government, such as remote airstrips and Northern Ontario resources transportation committee roads, health facilities, 24-hour ambulance and services to the elderly. We intend to do more in these areas;

We are establishing a mechanism for ongoing consultation with native groups on such matters as the new Mining Act. We have been very encouraged by discussions on native issues with mining companies, but we know there is more to do. We will be working with other ministries, with northerners, including natives, and with the federal government, to address issues that Mr. Fahlgren identified.

One thing we are going to look at in the next month with the federal government and the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) is what Mr. Fahlgren discussed about a school in the north. We are looking at the Sioux Lookout radar base, like the one at Sudbury and the one at Lowther, that will be closed down in the next year. We are going to look at that area for a trade school and other schooling for the natives of that area in the northwest.

The member for Algoma has suggested that only the name of the ministry was changed. I can assure him this is a new ministry with new thrusts. I suggest he watch us carefully and he will see the results. If he had been with me in the last few months, I have met probably more than 200 politicians from the area and they–

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Sometimes they do not care about the north. Let them talk and we will talk together here.

In my consultations with the chamber of commerce and the mayors and reeves, they tell me they are very satisfied with what is going on, especially with what we are doing in the field of tourism and development, and the consultation on top of that. That is what they want, and we are going to continue this process.

The use of an order in council to assign duties to a minister is not a "strange administrative tactic" as the member for Algoma suggested. It is specifically provided for under the Executive Council Act and has been used in the past. The member wanted to know why we changed the name through order in council.

Amending the Ministry of Northern Affairs Act quickly was not practical. We could change the name but many new provisions would have to have been drafted and introduced to reflect the new development thrust of the ministry and to distinguish between the mining activities that continued to be administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and those administered by my ministry. Our intention is to have a Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Act for introduction in the early part of 1986. This will provide an opportunity for further debate.

The member also had a question about what we are going to do with Minaki Lodge. There is nothing to be gained and much to be lost in dwelling further on Minaki Lodge's past. Now that it is completed and operating, all parties should look to ways of maximizing the benefits of Minaki Lodge for all Ontarians. There is both a domestic and international tourist demand for the outdoors experience the north can offer, if it is provided through a quality full-service facility.

Overall seasonal occupancy rates are approaching 75 per cent and July and August occupancy rates are close to 90 per cent. August 1985 occupancy rates were slightly lower than in 1984, but this is attributable to poor weather, and in addition the lodge had almost 20 per cent more

rooms. Occupancy rates are high considering Minaki Lodge cannot overbook because of a shortage of alternative accommodation in the area.

If members opposite look at the figures, overall occupancy from June to October in 1983 was 59.9 per cent, from May to October in 1984 73.6 per cent and from April to November in 1985 72.5 per cent. July 1985 was as high as 87.9 per cent and August 1985 was a little bit lower than the year before at 88.6 per cent.

8:20 p.m.

I agree the previous government's response to a problem was to study it to death without any action ever being taken. However, if we are not going to impose solutions on northerners, they must be consulted to ensure that they will be appropriate made-in-the-north solutions.

That is why, when the committee on resource-dependent communities, of which the member for Algoma is a member, was established, it was given a short three-month mandate to recommend realistic policies and programs to the government for consideration.

I have given Ed Thompson, too, a very short time in which to report back to me on the junior mine financing issue.

There was some discussion of economic cycles by my friend the member for Algoma. The exposure of northern Ontario communities to the cycles of the global economy and world commodity prices is a concern of all the members of this House. Surely the member for Algoma does not expect the government of Ontario to control international commodity prices. What this government can do is develop policies and programs to cushion the impact on resource-dependent communities.

Mr. Martel: I have been hearing that gobbledegook for years.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Attendez un peu. Ça ne presse pas, là.

That is why the committee on resource-dependent communities was established with broad northern representation, including the member for Algoma, to recommend realistic made-in-the-north policies and programs for the government to implement.

One cannot change the world in one day, the member knows that. Most of the time, just giving money is not a solution either. We must try some other place.

I am looking forward to the committee's recommendations on how to make the resource industries more competitive and how to diversify the economy of these communities.

I was a business man in the north. I know what has to be done.

Mr. Martel: That is a southern boy's philosophy.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: That is my philosophy because I owned a business in the north. I spoke to the Americans too. When recession arrived, I worked through that dilemma. We lost $3 million in one year and paid $1 million of interest at the bank.

The possibility of mines closing is something this government has recognized and has already taken some action on. Last December I announced the creation of an advisory committee on resource-dependent communities to find ways to help northern communities that depend upon a single resource for their livelihood. The member for Algoma is a member of this committee, and I am confident that through his efforts and those of the other members of the committee specific and realistic policies and programs will be recommended for consideration by this government.

I am looking forward to receiving the recommendations of this committee in the next few months.

There was some discussion about a roving northern affairs officer by the member for Kenora and the member for Algoma. First, I have met here and in the north with many native groups, with at least 30. I am encouraged by these meetings and I believe the natives are too.

I have appointed Frank Beardy, deputy chief of the Muskrat Dam Band, as my special assistant, with an office here and in Thunder Bay, to help me and my ministry in native issues. I will use this office myself at least once a month to meet with the people of that area.

The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) refers to southern-oriented policies. One of the reasons I entered provincial politics was my concern that the north was not getting its fair share of economic activity and northerners were not getting their viewpoints listened to at Queen's Park. This government has already demonstrated its commitment to giving northerners access to decision-making by establishing a cabinet committee on northern development; regional development councils; a $100-million northern development fund; and by putting the Minister of Northern Development and Mines on the important cabinet committees on economic policy, social policy, justice, native affairs, race relations and the policy and priorities board.

Members of the cabinet committee on northern development have already been to Thunder Bay and Englehart. They also met after the Timmins

cabinet meeting with local groups from that area. We intend to make more trips to northern centres.

Concerning regional development councils, my friend the member for Algoma said he thought they would not have enough clout, but I am telling him they will have clout. They will be a key sounding board for development strategies and programs in the north. I will be asking them for ideas on a range of issues from tourism to agriculture. Their recommendations will be closely considered by me and by the cabinet committee on northern development.

I will be seeking nominees for this council, from whom a broadly representative council of nine to 12 members will be selected. This process has been started for the Atikokan, Thunder Bay and Armstrong area council in the northwest and for the Hearst, Iroquois Falls and Highway 11 corridor area in the northeast.

When I became minister I found that too little money had been put aside for the northern Ontario regional development program. My first job was to find the dollars to keep it going while we decided what best served northern business needs.

I did this. There is now ample money available for Nordev for the foreseeable future. I have now asked for a review of Nordev, and this is under way. I also intend to ask the regional development councils for their view on Nordev and possible successor programs.

The member for Algoma asked a question about the pulp and paper industry modernization. Many communities in northern Ontario are dependent upon the forest products industry for their livelihood. It is important that this industry remain healthy and internationally competitive. The sluggishness of the international pulp and paper markets has caused the industry to struggle. More efforts are needed by industry as well as by government to maintain our internationally competitive position.

I believe it is appropriate to have a co-operative effort between the public and private sectors to ensure the stability of major industries in northern Ontario. Members can be assured that any public funding will be provided only after very careful consideration and after we are sure the funds are being spent in the public's long-term interests.

The member for Algoma asked what progress the government had made towards implementing the Liberal Party platform. I do not know why he asked that, because what we have passed during the last three months was all according to the Liberal Party platform.

Mr. Martel: Baloney. The minister cannot even say that with a straight face.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It is 99.9 per cent. We may have established a different philosophy, but they are the same words.

While it is still early in our mandate, significant steps have already been taken to outline the direction I want this ministry to take. Priority platform items have already been initiated. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was established, an independent forest audit was commissioned, a northern development fund was established to strengthen resource industries and to diversify the northern economy, a study of north-south gasoline price differentials is under way and the northern medical travel program is in full swing.

The ultimate judges of how well we have worked with northerners to develop the economy in the north will be the people of northern Ontario. I am confident of a positive verdict. I am hearing from northerners that they are pleased with what we have done so far. They especially like the fact that they are being consulted.

There was another concern about there not being enough time for the forest audit. The responsibility for the independent forest audit rests with my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). I am sure he is confident that sufficient time has been provided.

8:30 p.m.

This task is being undertaken by Dr. Baskerville, who has an international reputation in his profession. I do not believe he would have taken on the assignment if he had not been comfortable with the time he had been given. My deputy minister and I will meet with him next week or the week after to see where he is going.

I heard a few comments from the member for Algoma and the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). I want to make sure this audit is done with the Liberal ideas we have put into the program. We will try to follow them as closely as possible.

Mr. Bernier: The minister is taking over from the Minister of Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am not taking over.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We will do it together, will we not?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The minister is right.

Mr. Bernier: They are so confused. They do not know who is in charge over there.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The member should not worry about the confusion. Ask the people in the north what they are saying about us.

Mr. Bernier: They are so busy patting themselves on the back they cannot do anything.

Mr. Martel: Confusion is no novelty to the member for Kenora.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will let them discuss it a little bit. They are fighting all the time too.

Mr. Martel: The former minister saw nothing wrong with northern development.

Mr. Pierce: They are not going to support the minister for too long, so he should not get too close to them.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We will see.

Mr. Pierce: They have only been friends for a short time.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: They were friends with the Liberal Party in the 1930s and up to 1948. Do not worry. There were lots of Liberal members before 1948 and federally there were lots too. It is only a matter of time. Look how the polls go. The member should not feel too secure.

The member for Algoma believes the government should use a heavy hand to force industry to reinvest its profits in northern Ontario. This government does not believe in industrial development by edict and it does not believe in imposing solutions on northerners. We believe in consultation and co-operation. That is why we have established broadly based committees of northerners to develop made-in-the-north solutions.

For example, the committee on resource-dependent communities has opposition members, business people, academics and unionists. One of their tasks is to recommend realistic policies to strengthen the northern economy.

Mr. Martel: What kind of baloney is this?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Northern industry will reinvest in the north if it is seen as a region providing a competitive environment for investment.

Mr. Martel: It has never invested.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Does the member know what he is talking about?

Mr. Martel: Yes, I know what I am talking about; I know the record of the whole resource-extraction industry.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Voyons donc. In the lumber industry and pulp and paper we always get our money back. The member knows himself. He is talking about one company. How much money do they spend in Sudbury on mining?

Mr. Martel: That is primary extraction. There is nothing beyond extraction in the north. That is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: There is not just mining in the north. There is lumber and pulp and paper. The member knows that. We do everything there.

Mr. Martel: They extract and take out more than they process there. The minister sounds just like the Tories.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. D. R. Cooke): Order. The members will allow the minister to finish.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Sounds like the Tories.

Mr. Martel: That is the speech the member for Kenora used to make.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: C'est correct. Prenez-le comme ça. That is the member's problem. If that is the way he takes it, it is okay. What can I do? I cannot change him. How can I change him? I will tell somebody else.

Mr. Martel: There was never any secondary industry in the north.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Vous ne parlez que de mines, soit Falconbridge ou l'autre. Talk about other things in the north. There is not only mining in the north. Come on.

Mr. Martel: I will. If the minister sits down, I will.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: On voit qu'on n'a pas d'argent en banque, des compagnies.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: No, I am not going to change.

Mr. Pierce: It is hard to tell who your friends are nowadays.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: There was some discussion about multinational corporations. I am concerned that large multinational corporations in northern Ontario be good corporate citizens. These companies are facing severe competitive pressures, and it does no good to place unrealistic burdens on them at a time when profits are low or nonexistent.

They have their part to play in stabilizing and improving the northern economic base, as do communities in which they operate and also the federal and provincial governments. The members can be sure this government will play its part.

A question was asked about how regional development councils will respond. They do need proposals to respond to, and this will be done. The RDCs will be expected to be more than reactive; they will equally be expected to develop new ideas and to forward proposals to the

government that address particular issues and opportunities in their respective regions.

A question was asked about the strengthening of the resource industries. The member for Algoma expressed a concern that we all share in this House, which is to ensure that the backbone of the northern Ontario economy, the resource industries, remain strong and internationally competitive. The way the province can best help these industries to remain strong is to provide an investment climate that encourages reinvestment in these industries. Vous avez compris?

Mr. Martel: I understand. It is not going to change a thing.

Interjection.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: On va voir. Attendez un peu. Ça fait trois mois qu'on est ici.

The Acting Chairman: Order. The member will please address his remarks to the chair.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Chairman, I was just saying that for those estimates, there were eight years for my friend and only four months for me. I told him to wait. There will be another budget and there will be another throne speech in the next few weeks.

Mr. Martel: The member for Kenora did not do anything either; that is what the problem is. The minister is right that he did nothing.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The way the province can best help these industries remain strong is to provide an investment climate that encourages reinvestment in these industries.

Government is working co-operatively with industry and labour to ensure an adequate wood fibre supply, a network of resource access roads, a highly trained labour force, labour-management peace, adoption of new technology, access to capital, supportive regulatory environment and a fair and competitive tax system.

Government's role is to ensure that the north is an attractive place to invest. We must also ensure that the mining industry has adequate access to capital. For example, cabinet just gave me authority to ask Ed Thompson, a former president of the Prospectors and Developers Association, to review the investment climate for Ontario's junior mines and to report back by the end of March.

There was a question about use of wood waste to produce energy. The production of methanol or wood alcohol, as suggested by the member for Algoma, is just not economical. With the current price of natural gas, it is cheaper to use it as the feedstock. On a more positive note, Foster Wheeler Ltd. now is constructing an $11-million, 7.5 megawatt thermal power station in Chapleau that will consume 110,000 tons per annum of wood waste and provide 10 to 12 new permanent jobs. The power will be sold to Ontario Hydro.

While this plant will not be operational until later this year, the government is already working with Foster Wheeler towards the construction of a second plant in another northern Ontario location. They are looking at Hearst, Cochrane, Timmins and Wawa to use the residue.

With respect to the response to an editorial in the Northern Times, Kapuskasing, the member for Algoma was scared that those councils would favour only large centres.

The appointment of members to individual RDCs will be done with sensitivity to achieve a balance between the larger and smaller centres. RDCs will not be deciding which member municipalities will get a new manufacturing plant. Individual companies will continue to decide where they wish to locate. It is up to the individual municipalities and their economic development organization to promote themselves to prospective employers.

The purpose of the RDCs is to provide a forum for giving feedback on area or regional issues and opportunities. Their mandate will not be to provide a forum for the promotion of parochial interests by individual municipalities. RDCs will be an important vehicle to achieve greater co-operation among all municipalities and interest groups in each region.

Those are my responses to the member for Algoma.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Brandt: Is it possible for us to hear from the member for Sudbury East? We all look forward to that.

The Acting Chairman: That may be possible.

Mr. Bernier: I have heard this speech 20 times.

Mr. Martel: It did not get through to the member because he did not do anything of any value in 20 years in government.

I have attempted to watch some development in the north these many years. It has primarily been resource extraction; taking those resources out of the north and sending them to the south, primarily to the United States. Along with the resources, we have sent our kids out because we have not had jobs.

Mr. Bernier: That is all the member has ever said.

Mr. Martel: The former minister who just interjected has four kids and to my knowledge not one of them is in northern Ontario, because they could not find a job in northern Ontario. There are no jobs for young people. If one goes across northern Ontario, wherever one wants to go, the kids from northern Ontario are here in southern Ontario or they went west when jobs were prevalent. One has only to look in Sudbury–

Mr. Bernier: The member should not generalize. He sent his kids overseas to get an education.

Mr. Martel: If they want an education to get a job, I am prepared to provide that for them, but there are no job opportunities in the north beyond extraction. One might work in a mill, in the mines or in the pulp industry, but beyond that–

Mr. Knight: What about Doran's Beverages?

Mr. Martel: Doran's? There is a handful of jobs.

What do we do with our resources? Those people who continue to convince government that resource extraction, whether it be from the forests or the mines, is the solution to the problems of northern Ontario are crazy. Until we keep some of those resources in the north, start to manufacture them–first, totally refine them and not send them to other countries to be refined–and start to utilize some of them here, the potential for development in the north is no greater now than it was five years ago.

In 50 years or 60 years, one can look at Sudbury or any mining community–let us forget Sudbury for a moment and look at Sault Ste. Marie. In the iron and steel industry in Hamilton, there is one job in the manufacturing sector for one job in the steel industry. If one looks at Sault Ste. Marie, for about 8,000 or 9,000 steel jobs, there are about 500 jobs at the most in manufacturing. Why is it that we can have so many manufacturing jobs related to steel in Hamilton but we cannot have any jobs related to steel in the north?

Mr. Bernier: The member should be the president of Inco.

Mr. Martel: The member for Kenora might kid, but he had his chance to have a planning role when we created the Ministry of Northern Affairs and he voted against any charges. I moved the amendments, but the member's government refused to accept them. They would have given him a planning capacity to have economic development.

The new minister falls in the same trap. I listened to the speech and I heard that rerun over and over again. Resource extraction will never develop the north economically.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I did not say it would.

Mr. Martel: It will not. Yes, that is what the minister said.

If we are talking about manufacturing something, then the minister is on the right track. It has not developed on its own in 100 years. Manufacturing will never develop on its own in the north, partly because of distance and partly because the bigger markets are down here. That is where the government infusion of capital is going to have to come in the form of loans and so on, or even in direct government involvement in developing some industries we want.

We have talked on a number of possibilities until we are blue in the face. One cannot get an answer. One never gets an answer. One could not get an answer from the former Minister of Northern Affairs and that whole group on a number of possibilities.

We had a company coming to Sudbury recently which was going to produce mining equipment. I say to my friend down at the end of the line, because they needed jobs in Glace Bay people from Nova Scotia came up here and offered $8 million under the table. Instead of that company coming to Sudbury, the bloody federal Tories offered it $8 million, and 85 per cent of what it is going to produce is going to be sold in northern Ontario. We are going to have to provide the rail transport, the subsidy to transport that mining equipment to northern Ontario.

The federal Tories say: "We do not believe in interference in the marketplace. It has to develop on its own." Does it develop under the table? They offered the company $8 million when it would have come to Sudbury for less than a million; they bought it. That is Tory economic policy. They say, "We do not believe in interference," but they offer a company $8 million to go to Glace Bay because the Tories closed down the heavy water plant.

Kelleher in Sault Ste. Marie has his finger in one ear and his brain in neutral because he could not overcome Sinclair Stevens, who said it had to go to Glace Bay. He has not said it publicly but he has done it.

So development along the lines we have talked about and I have talked about never takes place. In 1973, we got a select committee to put in a report. My friend the previous Minister of Correctional Services was on that committee. We agreed that we had to encourage the

production of mining equipment in northern Ontario.

This company was coming to northern Ontario. The federal Tories took it away, just like that. Kelleher could not do a thing to stop it, and the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) is a Tory. Or did the member forget?

Mr. Bernier: The member for Sudbury East scared them away.

Mr. Martel: Oh, I scared them away. In fact, I was trying to help them get there. We met with the minister and his staff. The company was on the way until Sinclair Stevens sent somebody from Nova Scotia to put up $8 million under the table.

The natural type of development for the north is to utilize the resources there to the maximum.

Mr. Bernier: What about the goats the member was promoting in Sudbury for angora wool? He was a director on that.

Mr. Martel: I promoted the sale of goats. Your friend Ernest Schaffernicht–I will not be distracted by Ernest Schaffernicht. It is too painful.

I say to my friend, though, regarding economic development, we were on the track with that mining equipment company. That is the type of development we need. My friend the previous Minister of Correctional Services knows full well that we recommended it. He was on the committee that in 1973 said we had to start to produce mining equipment in northern Ontario.

Can the members imagine: Canada, the third largest producer of mineral wealth in the world, imports more mining equipment than any other country in the world.

We are crazy. We have a market for mining equipment. Why should we not be producing it where we have such a large resource? We are the third largest market in the world for mining equipment and we import from the United States, Germany and Sweden. We produce virtually nothing.

Mr. Bernier: Why does the member not start manufacturing in Sudbury?

Mr. Martel: The member says to me: "One of the things I want to see developed is mining equipment. There is a future in it, and the production of equipment for logging, and so on." Where is much of it produced?

8:50 p.m.

My friend says he was in business. Where did he buy his equipment? Not in northern Ontario. All we ever do is tear resources out of the ground and send them somewhere else. As I listened to the speech tonight, I heard about more extraction. I get insulted when I hear of more extraction. Every time a community is built based on extraction, one knows that from the first shovelful there is an end to it somewhere down the road. The only solution is to start to utilize some of the resources in the north. Until we have a government that is prepared to do that, there is no hope.

Let me give my friend the minister another example. I wrote to him about all of this after he became minister. I got an answer from him, and I said, "Look, the same bureaucrat who wrote that for the member for Kenora is now writing it for you." That is right. The deputy was with the minister. I was there at a meeting with the Premier (Mr. Peterson), and I said:

"Let us not get hung up on the problem of pollution emissions alone because we cannot win. Instead, let us ask for the first time that the provincial government, with the Premier there and several authorities, the two mining companies and the two unions, sit down and look at the long-term development of the Sudbury basin.

"Let us find out if we need a new smelter because we should not deal with pollution control just in a vacuum. If we do that, we are dead; we must look at pollution control in relationship to a new refinery, a new smelter and the capacity to take some of the Cargill township phosphates and in that refining capacity draw off more sulphuric acid and combine sulphuric acid with phosphates to make fertilizer in the north–that is one sideline; take the refining capacity to refine all of the precious metals, all of which are processed in Europe, in England for International Nickel and in Norway for Falconbridge, and include in that a whole package of the total refining of all of the nickel in Canada."

We do not do that. We have excess capacity. One of the finest reports ever done was by Tom Mohide in a document called, Towards a Nickel Policy for Ontario. He said we had excess capacity to refine in Canada now. What do we do? We continue to let them ship the resources out of the country, partly processed, semi-processed. We do not manufacture any of it.

It is the same with wood. We do not manufacture furniture. What the hell do we have? We have ghost towns and massive unemployment.

My friend talks about gloom and doom. We have lost 15,000 people in Sudbury in the last six years. We have an unemployment rate of 14 per cent. It is the richest part of the province and it has created more wealth than any other area has in terms of profit, and we have virtually nothing.

Overnight, those fellows over there closed down the fourth largest employer, the Correctional Services centre in Burwash. They just wiped it out and built a new jail in Milton, in the riding of Oakville; that was Snow's riding. They wiped it out. It did not matter. It was the fourth largest employer. That is how much they thought about the north.

As I listen to these speeches, this is the same sort of attitude, the same sort of philosophy: southern boys writing nice speeches about how we can extract some more. Extraction is not the answer.

Mr. Bernier: There is nothing in the accord. They put nothing in the accord about that. They slipped up.

Mr. Martel: We got more out of the accord than the member did for northern Ontario. I at least can stand here–

Mr. McClellan: We got rid of you, Leo.

Mr. Bernier: A tax increase is what we got.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: We might be hypocrites. Mr. Chairman might remind my friend that the Speaker has ruled over and over again that sort of language out of order in this House. I will not even ask the member to withdraw it because I know where it comes from. I will just let it ride. If the Speaker were in his chair, he would tell the member for Kenora he has to withdraw that comment. I will not insist because I know where it comes from and I will just let it go.

Mr. McClellan: Consider the source.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I would just consider the source.

Let me get back. If we want to talk about what we can do in northern Ontario, there are all kinds of things we could do with import replacement. If one looks at the list of products produced from nickel and finds out where those products are manufactured one will find none of them made in Ontario. If one looks at mining equipment, the potential for sulphur or the possibility of reducing acid emissions by making fertilizer, the silly part of it is I do not know whether it will work,but what is so irritating is never to have the possibility of sitting down and talking seriously about it.

For three years we sent documents to that government and to the federal Liberals. Both of them having been in power so long, they did not think anybody else had an idea but themselves and they did not have to listen to anybody. I hope this government decides it has to listen about some potential for economic development along a number of avenues.

I used to tell my friends over on that side of the House that one of the problems facing northerners is freight rates. One can ship raw material out of the north so easily at tremendously reduced rates, but to ship anything that is manufactured is sky-high. No dispute; one can ship stuff from Toronto to Saskatoon more cheaply than one can ship it from here to Hearst because of the silliness of the freight rate system in this country.

None of that is ever dealt with; it is just ignored. The Tories ignored it because they were running this province by the divine right of kings. They did not have to do a thing but put the odd fire truck in a community and that was it.

For example, they were going to fix up the hospital in Sudbury. Three cabinet ministers, including the former Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), came to Sudbury over a four-year period about the cancer centre.

Mr. McClellan: How many Tories does it take?

Mr. Martel: Three. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) came, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) came and the former Premier came; and they all had a big clambake and a big announcement over a four-year period. All said the same thing. I am questioning the minister to find out whether we are going to have the money to do the building, but we have not even got to that yet.

The list of things that we could do in the north with some sound economic planning is endless, but we have always taken the cheap route out, as we have in Canada as a whole, which is to sell off raw materials–to the US primarily, about 80 per cent of it–and end up buying all the finished goods back from the US, where they are manufactured.

Manufacturing has about five jobs for every man in the mining sector, so when my friend's ministry prepares material and talks about more extraction, I blow my cool because the jobs are not in mining; the jobs are in manufacturing.

My God, look at Inco. In 1972 it had 19,000 men and women. They are down to 6,500. Their production is almost the same, and we have not been able to make up for the loss of jobs. Look at Falconbridge: everybody is out at Falconbridge. It is the same, and again we have no jobs and we have no replacements. Yet the value of those resources is endless. They are tremendous resources and we do not do anything with them.

One could talk about agriculture. I was in Flin Flon a couple of years ago and I was quite

amazed at how much further north Flin Flon is than the Sudbury basin, for example; much further north, several hundred miles. Agriculture abounds. We have the flats down through Kirkland Lake and that area right down as far as Cobalt. There is tremendous potential. It has never been developed.

9 p.m.

It is like everything else in northern Ontario. If one is 100 miles away from the American border one is considered in the hinterland in Canada; anything beyond 100 miles, except for southern Ontario, where our geographic situation is somewhat different from that of the rest of Canada. If one were to cut straight across the 39th parallel one would find it is the same; beyond 100 to 150 miles it is like wasteland and all we do is extract.

That is why the minister is barking up the wrong tree when he talks about relying on more resource extraction as the future for the north. One has only to look at the number of industries with more than 200 workers that are not involved in mining or the pulp and paper industry. How many are there? There are four or five at most in northern Ontario. There are very few. It is because we have never had the courage to sit down, plan and think about where we are going and how we can utilize those resources in the north.

I am not silly enough to suggest that one can take all the nickel from Inco or the copper and manufacture it in the north or in Ontario. I am not suggesting that for a moment. This country is so rich. One can imagine what the Japanese could do with our resources. There is a country without any resources. It imports everything, including power, and it leads the world economically. We have it all and we cannot give it away fast enough; dirt cheap.

The federal Tories want to get into free trade. Tell me what is in free trade for us. Eighty per cent of what we now trade with the United States is in resources. That is primarily what we send to them. Where are the jobs? They say: "Oh, it is those big markets. The potential is in the big markets. You have to look at the big picture." However, we do not have any Canadian industry to compete with them.

I recall in 1976 and 1977, when they were talking about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce was looking at 2,000 companies shutting their doors and going back to the US. In the second GATT agreement, the tariff went down to nine per cent. One can imagine what it will be like if there is no tariff whatsoever, not even nine per cent. My God, they will just shut the doors in Canada, put another shift on in the plants in the United States and send it all in. That is the Canadian legacy.

We have never had in this country and in this province, the desire, the drive, to plan the economy in a sound way. Every time one talks about it, people say, "Oh you are a socialist, you want to nationalize everything." That was the glib answer. One can look at West Germany, Sweden and Japan and one can see any number of types of economies, all of them mixed economies with heavy government involvement. In Japan, the government is heavily involved; it finances a lot. In West Germany and Sweden, it is the same thing. They are involved in planning the economy.

We have the one ingredient most of them do not have: resources. We have been so rich, but we have squandered our resources. Rather than plan economically, we have taken the shortcut. Sell them off in a hurry for a fast buck and then we can afford to bring in the imports. It is costing us now.

This country spent $12 billion in unemployment insurance and welfare last year, and yet it is the third largest producer of mineral wealth in the world. We should be ashamed of ourselves that we have not maximized the use of those resources for the benefit of the people of Canada and of Ontario. We are a disgrace and the legacy we are leaving for our kids is unbelievable. If one looks to the jobs we are creating in Canada now, they are service industry jobs which are low-paying, part-time and are going to drag us down, or we will continue to pay unemployment insurance and welfare. In Sudbury, with as many problems as it has, the stores are working women three days a week. No fringe benefits, no nothing. Minimum wage. Whoop-de-do! Yet Sudbury produces tremendous amounts of wealth.

One can go beyond Sudbury and talk about the Timmins area, an area that has produced vast amounts of wealth. If it were not for Texasgulf, it would be a ghost town. One can look at Kirkland Lake that produced tremendous amounts of wealth for Ontario. Going through Kirkland Lake one sees head-frames and mines that are shut down. What are we all about as a society? Tell me why we cannot take our resources rather than sending them to Japan, Norway or England. Why can we not take those resources and turn them into something which would provide jobs

for our young people. There is not a government in this country–I do not want to take that too far.

I was going to say there was not a government in this country that has not tried to do something about it. There have been several governments that have successful. By the time Grant Devine, the Premier of Saskatchewan, finishes selling all the crown assets, there will be nothing left. At the time former premier Allan Blakeney was defeated, they did not have a provincial debt, and they had almost 20 years of continuously balanced budgets. They now have had three deficits in a row. They are not doing badly under Mr. Devine. He has sold off all kinds of real estate and crown corporations to try to return the government to power for a second term.

I say to the minister he has an opportunity. It is going to take tremendous effort to change the economic structure, the economic direction of this province. I am not sure those people have the will to do it. The old methods of doing some of these things are not going to work. They are going to have to get directly involved through consortiums of public and private money to make it work.

Nothing has developed in the north beyond extraction save a few small industries. It is not going to happen on its own. They are going to have to look at things. I mentioned a few, whether they be mining equipment or not getting caught in a game of emissions. Look at the total package for Sudbury which would be beneficial, if one recaptured more sulphuric acid and mixed it with phosphates. That sort of development would have to be planned. Once government has the plan, it has to bring in people to help develop it.

That does not mean to say government ownership. I know some members go hairy when we talk about government ownership. Without direct government involvement, it is not going to happen. It is not going to happen because we have had 100 years of it in the north, and it has not happened. The Tories did not do a thing to help it. They had a philosophy of "a little dab will do you." They dropped a little cash around election time, a little cash there and a little dab here and there.

When they finished with all their dabs, we had nothing. The kids still stream out of the north. The tax rates in northern Ontario are higher than anywhere else. Municipal taxes in the north are much higher. Sudbury is the highest-taxed city because there is no industrial base. Until we get an industrial base, we cannot reduce taxes, we cannot have our kids working in the north, and we pay high bucks for education so they can leave.

9:10 p.m.

Until we get involved in economic planning in a sound, sensible way using the resources to our advantage and no longer sending them out of Canada, this province and this country are not going anywhere. The shame of it: we are the third largest producer of mineral wealth in the world and we have 1.5 million people or thereabouts unemployed. We ought to be ashamed that is occurring in this day and age. I am not sure why the jobs need to go to the west coast. They open up a mine and they bring in the equipment for the mine from France and Japan. What the hell do we get for it?

Mr. Pierce: Where would you get the money? Off the backs of their labour in Japan?

Mr. Martel: We have money. I am glad my friend interjected. When the select committee was looking into this, we invited the people from Bay Street. The member's friend, the former Minister of Correctional Services, will tell him that they told us there was all kinds of money to develop this country. If one looks at the amount of money that is flowing out to develop places in New York and Dallas and so on, and if one looks at the amount of money that flows out in royalties or patent fees, etc., we are talking about billions. The member does not understand that. He asks where the money comes from. We have money on Bay Street. There are Canadians with lots of money.

Are we better off paying unemployment insurance and welfare or are we better off utilizing the stuff that is here to create work? That is what it boils down to. We can play silly games about where the money is going to come from. Where does the money come from to support the 1.5 million people who want jobs? We have to find the money because they cannot live in abject poverty, although they are pretty close to it.

We have the resources, but we have never had the will to change it. Until we have a government that does, it will not change. As long as we get speeches that talk about more extraction out of the north, we are never going to change the north. Government is going to have to get involved in a very strong and forthright fashion. It might mean government putting money in. Anything less, not only in northern Ontario but also in this country, continues to spell disaster for us with 1.5 million unemployed and a $12-billion bill annually to support people who do not have jobs.

We have a choice. We have the resources and the capacity to do it if we only have the will.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I cannot answer all the points made by my friend the member for Sudbury East. Let me say, however, that I am asking many of the same questions he asks about mining machinery, diversification and labour-management communication. I invite him and other northerners to work with us on these issues. I will be listening. I assure the member that my ministry is open to suggestions. We will make an effort to try to lead the economy of northern Ontario on that kind of route.

Let me mention a couple of specific issues that are of special concern to me. First, labour-management communication: there was a meeting of Inco and the union. The staff of my ministry arranged a meeting on Tuesday between Inco and its union. I am told, and I see in the Sudbury paper, that the union felt it was a useful and informative meeting. At our suggestion, the company and the union have agreed this will be the start of a real dialogue addressing common challenges. We will soon arrange a similar meeting with Falconbridge. Some of the information exchanged was confidential and all groups agreed that these meetings should be restricted. I did not go. I think this is the right route to take.

On the youth unemployment problem, I am very concerned about the unemployment problem among northern youth. We have inherited a very bad situation. As some members know, many of the companies that used to hire youth in the summer no longer do so and some companies such as Inco have long summer shutdowns nowadays.

This hurts all northern young people. It will hurt the prospect of students who need a good job to earn enough to stay in the colleges and universities or to get enough money for their first year.

That is one of the reasons I decided to enter politics at my age. I looked at the figures the night the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) announced the election. It was a Friday. A few minutes before on Global they were talking about youth unemployment in Ontario, and I discussed it with my daughter. She worked for the federal government and she told me about youth unemployment in the north. At that time in the northeast it was 28 per cent; that was before May. In the northwest it was 24 or 25 per cent. Today they tell us it is 14 per cent or nine per cent for youth. Nothing has changed. Why is it 14 per cent today? It is impossible.

I am sure that if one takes the welfare roll and the unemployment insurance figures for youth, it is a disaster. I cannot see how our young people can go on this way. They are leaving the north. I was reading that 16.2 per cent have left the Sault Ste. Marie area in the last five years. Where are they? They are probably here on Yonge Street with their hair all yellow or green. I am sure we must do something pretty soon, within the next two years. We cannot afford to have a full generation on unemployment insurance, because the youth are losing their dignity. When one loses one's dignity, one loses le goût de vivre. That is why we have so many suicides in the north.

During my election campaign, in one month there were six suicides in my area between Hearst and Smoothrock Falls. Out of those there were three who had been laid off at Spruce Falls. There were some who were older—49 or 50 years of age—and the rest were youths. If we continue, we will have the same problem with our youth as we have with our native people, two or three generations without seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

As a government and together we have to make a new direction in the north, because otherwise the clock is ticking. If we cannot, in the next two or three years, try to give hope to those young people or those young women in the north, then we will be in trouble. As I have said lots of times, when I go to meet my Creator he is going to ask me, "What did you do for the youth in the north between 1980 or 1990?" That is why I am here. I will at least be able to answer that I went into politics to try to do something; that is one of the reasons.

I did not come here to see my name with the Honourable René in front; I did not come here to have a car driven by a chauffeur. I came here to try to give the rest of my life, if I can, and with my energy to try to give a ray of light to those young people who are suffering.

In the north we are encountering two problems, the problem my friend the member for Sudbury East mentioned about the people who were laid off in mines or in pulp and paper, the ones around 48, 49 and 50; and then at the bottom we have our youth who are unemployed. In the middle we are not too bad yet. We will have to make a real effort to try to keep them going, but we will have to find a solution for the older and the younger ones.

This is probably going to be by trying to get new industry. My honourable friend from Sudbury is right in what he was saying about the company that was supposed to go to Sudbury and another one that was supposed to go to North Bay. Those guys in Ottawa say, "You were

yelling about Trudeau." At least with Trudeau you knew where you were going. He had the Department of Regional Economic Expansion program. It was the same application in the north of Ontario as in Val-d'Or or in Prince Edward Island, but today we do not know where we are going.

The economy is really dry; there is nothing left. Then they go around and give money under the table to Quebec or to the other provinces, and we in Ontario are left flat. There is no direction in the economy. I do not think we are going to get any in the next budget, either.

So we will have to take the lead and try with the amount of money we have in Ontario to make the best of it. However, without the feds it is going to be hard. I wish my friends in the Conservative Party would put pressure on their friends in Ottawa about northern Ontario and Ontario.

9:20 p.m.

They signed deals with Quebec a few months ago about another sector, mining. They were told not to open that mine at Cyprus Anvil. Everybody went to see them, all the ministers and myself, but they opened that mine. There are two pulp mills in Ontario that are having big problems. There is a surplus of paper and pulp. They opened a mill that was already closed, then another one in Matane. Who is going to suffer again? Ontario; because there are already two mills or maybe three that are in deep financial trouble. Maybe these two mills are going to fall by the wayside, like the mine that was supposed to open at Wilson Lake.

I got a letter today from Falconbridge. The only reason the other mine was open was that we spent money on it. I decided when I arrived there to give money for roads to the mine. It is a new direction that I gave to the northern roads. There was one in Kirkland Lake but that was under the federal agreement. This is for the north road, with the supposition the mine will be in production. They spent $10 million on the mine site and shaft, $1.5 million on the road, and then they opened this mine over there. Now, in Quebec, they have all kinds of grants from Hydro Québec and the provincial and federal governments. They are going to open another little zinc mine between the two other companies.

Who was suffering at that time? Northern Ontario. I had a long meeting with the Premier on this issue of unemployment. We are in a real recession in the north. It is not only in mining, it is all over. When one looks at it, it is very scary. We have to try to convince my friend the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio), if we want to compete with other provinces Ontario Hydro is going to have to be a part of this economic tool for northern Ontario. If Hydro is not an integral part, we will be facing a lot of trouble because Quebec is using hydro as an economic tool.

As the member for Sudbury East has said, we have to look at transportation. I asked the people in the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission to look at it again. They had a price increase last year of about six or seven per cent. I want to know why, because everything was supposed to be at three per cent. This should not happen again.

Other companies were operating in the north and were told by the government at that time they would get a good price to haul wood from north of Cochrane. The ONTC raised its prices. Finally one company, Cochrane Enterprises, was caught in a bind and may have to close down if there is no solution. They are now starting to haul with trucks. That is 125 miles. They cannot make it.

We are going to look for some direction, probably with Via Rail, and perhaps take the line up to Hearst and look at the lines that go to Sault Ste. Marie to try to get a loop and work together, or get this province to invest money in that loop and try at least to control the transportation around that area.

We are looking at a few things such as that.I mentioned to the unions that perhaps we should look at the Quebec situation where there is a fonds de solidarité arrangement. The unions buy in with their employees in small, profitable companies. I was sorry when I saw Mr. White did not go along with the deal to let the employees buy in with other companies in the Urban Transportation Development Corp. Still, those are his ideas and I have discussed that with other union presidents in this province. They tell me they are not yet prepared.

I will not stop there. I am going to try to meet with Mr. Pilkey and then perhaps make my way to Mr. White again. I would like to meet with them personally, because if we are going to make a move in the north on secondary industry, we need labour peace. Labour should participate in the development of northern Ontario in the same style of program as in Quebec. In Quebec, the province put some money into that fund and the federal government put in $10 million. That $10 million probably is there for Ontario if we want it, if the unions in Ontario want to work together.

I am going to try again when I come back. I am going to take a week's holiday, or 10 days, then I will try to meet with labour in this province. With

the help of my friends from the third party, I will try to convince them to look at Quebec's solidarity fund for the future of small companies in this province.

If we want to give youth a bit more stimulus, we have to change the system of education in northern Ontario. That will not be done overnight. We are producing too many mechanics who are not mechanics, because the shops in northern Ontario today were built during the last years of Jean Marchand, the federal minister. He gave money to schools in northern Ontario, but most of the shops for learning trades are obsolete because they were built in 1967 and 1968.

We have to make new inroads. Children who have to come and work in this area should at least have training in a trade school with machinery or computers for the jobs they are going to be offered. Right now they do not even know what robots are all about. We will have to show them what robots are for.

This is one thing my deputy ministry and I are talking about with the Minister of Education and with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara). We have to take a new direction in the colleges and universities so they are northern universities, and some of the schools should be up in northern Ontario. That is lagging behind at this point.

For example, they are closing down the faculty of architecture at the University of Toronto. They should leave that open and close the forestry school and bring it to Thunder Bay. They should be able to produce mining engineers in Sudbury. We have to rationalize the system.

I assure the members that my ministry is looking at other areas. I agree with the members from the north that we have to diversify along different lines. We are going to discuss that in the next year or so with other ministries. The north and east of this province have to have a share of the pie. Toronto is okay, but we have to start to push for a few, not all the departments but some, in the north if we are going to survive.

As my friend the member for Sudbury East said, it is hard to attract new industry to the north. I asked the member for Kenora when he was joking with me about the Toyota plant: "Why did we not get plants in 1948 and 1950? Why did they not push the southern industry towards the north when it was time?" Today we have to fight Quebec and other provinces. It will be a big chore to make them jump towards Sudbury and North Bay, but we have to try.

We know from statistics that tourism and services will be high. If so, our government will have to direct some service industry towards the north. We will have to do much more to create short-term jobs for youth and also more permanent jobs. Through education and through new initiatives, I am sure that is the way to go.

9:30 p.m.

I would like to assure my friend, and I will repeat it to him, I did not come here at the age of 52 just to try to do the same things that have happened in the last 20 years. With the other ministries, I am going to try to give a new direction. Through the regional economic development councils, we are going to look first at tourism, and I am going to ask them to give me a tourist strategy. After that, we will work on other things.

What I want from the people who are going to be involved with us is an economic strategy, a new social strategy and a tourist strategy to see where we are going to go in the next 10 years. After that, we can target a region and work on target. This is my response to my friend the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Bernier: I listened with a great deal of interest as the minister responded. In my opening remarks I asked something like 63 questions and I got answers for about 30. I will go through them one by one. I hope we can get some positive answers.

I admire the minister's determination and desire to do bigger and greater things for northern Ontario. I suppose that after eight or nine months we have to say the jury is still out. We will be watching with interest as these things unfold. He talks a great line; there is no question about it.

During the opening remarks, he referred to such things as, "We will listen," "We will study," "I am concerned," "We will review," "That is under consideration," "We will take a look at this," "It is a priority with us," "We will have a plan," "We will set up a strategy," "We will work together," "We will consult," and on and on.

That is great. Those are great words. I think he raises a lot of expectations when he talks about things happening that may never happen. I think we should be fair with the people of northern Ontario and say exactly what we are going to do.

Everything is going to flow so harmoniously, everything is going to roll out and it is going to be Utopia because the minister, at 52 years of age, has come to Queen's Park and is going to change the way of life for all of us in northern Ontario. I will be watching with interest and I will be helping at every turn of the wheel. However, when he moves around northern Ontario, he

should not go around and leave promises with people and raise hopes that he knows he cannot fulfil. There is no question about that. I say that to him as we start questioning specifics of the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The member should tell me what I have not fulfilled yet.

Mr. Bernier: It is just straight talk. We need something positive, some positive proof.

As far as the member for Sudbury East is concerned, I have heard that speech about 20 times. It is his old gloom-and-doom speech. It was so bad that he emptied the public galleries. They walked out on him. He scared them out just as he has scared industry out of northern Ontario with his socialist claptrap, which is all it is.

Mr. Martel: The member did not develop one business when he was there.

Mr. Bernier: I am going to tell a story about a great developer of new business in northern Ontario. We did start a new business. We gave them money, and he was on the board of directors, him and his friend the member for Nickel Belt.

Do the members remember those goats? They went to Texas and bought some angora goats. They were going to develop angora goats in Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: He knows he is not telling the truth, so it does not matter.

Mr. Bernier: I am just trying to get his goat.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I must tell my honourable friend that is not quite the way it happened. It was his government that put $600,000 into a little operation called Sudbury 2001. Some of his best friends at Inco and Falconbridge were on the board of directors. My friend the member for Nickel Belt and I were here in Toronto. We finally got it straightened out.

Mr. Chairman: Order. That is not a point of order.

Mr. Bernier: The truth is that he–

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Did the member get a sweater?

Mr. Bernier: Yes, I got a sweater. They were very expensive. I bought one for my wife.

Mr. Martel: The member when minister gave $100,000 without any strings.

Mr. Bernier: Here is one little effort, and we propped him up with money. We gave him all the direction he needed and he flopped; he failed. Now he stands in the Legislature and tries to tell the world how to correct all the problems of northern Ontario. He had an opportunity and he failed. The minister should not pay too much attention to that. The member is a little embarrassed about that.

Mr. Martel: The member can have all 100 of them if he can find them. They are on Manitoulin Island now.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. This is not very easy for Hansard and it is not very orderly. The member for Kenora has the floor.

Mr. Bernier: Last time we met, we talked about morale in the ministry. I want to remind the minister that I am still concerned about that issue in particular in his ministry. I was a little disappointed to read the comments of the minister in an article in the Globe and Mail, dated January 25, 1986, after we discussed it in the Legislature. The minister has quite a large article about himself and all the things he has done.

However, he made a couple of references to his ministry about which I should like some clarification. First, he says he is not going to be briefed any more by his staff because they waste a lot of his time. Second, he said, "In my own department they have got to start to think like Liberals." I wonder if he would explain just what that is.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First, this young woman came to see me one night. She interviewed me and asked me about my frustration. That week, I and my deputy minister were frustrated because we had to fight with other ministries because some of them were still thinking about the south. I am sorry, I was misquoted. I said my ministry has to fight all the time with other ministries, and I did say "ministries." I can assure you I am saying that as the truth. I did not mention it was my ministry.

I was saying the other ministries will have to start to think of a different, a liberal program. She put "Liberal." I never talk about "Tory." When I speak I always say "Conservative" and she put "Tory." When I meet those other ministries, I have to admit it, they will have to change their thinking too. The member for Kenora went with that himself when he was the Minister of Northern Affairs because there are still some people who think Barrie is the north, and that was my frustration. It had nothing to do with my ministry.

Mr. Bernier: I appreciate the minister's response and his clarification. I am sure his staff will appreciate reading his full explanation.

In going through Hansard, I noticed that on January 20, 1986, the minister stated, "Our government as a whole has introduced many programs that will benefit northern Ontario in the long run." Would he give us a breakdown of the programs he was referring to in that comment?

9:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: On occasion, I have provided some lists of the programs, but I was talking about the medical travel and the 24-hour service. When I talk about programs, it is not always specifically about the north; they deal with the south too. The members all know which one is being talking about.

Mr. Brandt: Which one?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I do not have to go through that. I will give the member a list tomorrow of all the programs we started and which direction we took on others.

Mr. Bernier: That will be fine. I just wanted to get it on the record because I am not really sure how many programs the minister is referring to or how many were brought in. We would like to know, but if the minister brings in the list tomorrow, that will be great.

On page 83 of the same Hansard report, the minister referred to the medical travel assistance program. He went to great lengths to explain how it worked, what it was going to do and everything else. He wound up by saying he did not understand what the honourable member was talking about. I want to repeat to him what the problem is in Kenora and ask for his help in leaning on the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to correct what I think is a real deficiency and discrimination in that program.

He should know the distance they will assist with is 300 kilometres. In other words, if a patient has to travel 300 kilometres to a major medical referral centre, he gets assisted financially. That is the criterion that is laid down. It is an arbitrary figure they have come up with.

I want to point out to the minister that the 20,000 people living in the Kenora area use the Manitoba medical facilities, the Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface Hospital. They are constantly using those facilities which are 240 kilometres away, so they do not qualify. That is the point I was trying to make to the minister. They are short of the 300-kilometre limit and they are being discriminated against.

I brought it up to the Minister of Health. He shrugged his shoulders and said that was the program.

I would implore this minister, as the minister responsible for northern Ontario, to lean on the Minister of Health and ask him to review that criterion, because it is discriminatory; there is no question about it.

The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) has a similar problem relating to that distance provision in the medical plan.

I explain to the minister again, I hope he understands the problem those 20,000 people have. It should appear to all of us as very discriminatory and I think the minister would like to correct it as much as I would.

I was interested in the minister's comments with respect to his discussions and ongoing dialogue with the Nishnawbe-Aski concerning land and other issues. Is it the government's intention to open those to public hearings or are they just going to be private discussions with his ministry and the Ministry of the Attorney General?

As he knows, this is a very interesting subject. I know there are a lot of people in northern Ontario who wish to get involved because the royal commissioner, Ed Fahlgren, has made certain recommendations. It may not sit well with all the people of northern Ontario. Is it this government's plan to take those discussions into the open, as he is doing with so many other consultative processes he has put in place?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: When I responded to the question on the Fahlgren report, I just listed what we were doing. These negotiations are being undertaken by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). The member could ask that question of him later.

On the Kenora problem, I know what the member means; there are other areas in the riding of Rainy River. I discussed it with the Minister of Health, who told us to monitor it. He did not promise me, but if we put enough pressure, he will probably make some changes. The member could ask that question of the Minister of Natural Resources some time later.

I am a member of the committee on native affairs. I am working on the economic and social side, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the chairman, is working on the legal side and the Minister of Natural Resources is working on the resources.

Mr. Bernier: I will go back to my original comments and go through some of the questions that were not answered. On page 3, I made reference to the mines division of his ministry and I asked how he planned to cover the increased expenditures of this division. It does

not show in these estimates and we have not heard anything from him as to how they will be funded, what amount will be in the mines division and what size of department he will have.

I ask him for a further explanation of this now. He is the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. I wonder if he could clarify this and bring us up to date as to what the expenditures would be, the number of people involved and some of his strategies and plans for that division.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We are still working, trying to rearrange the mining side of the ministry with the Ministry of Natural Resources. That should be over by the end of this fiscal year and it will be incorporated in my next estimates. Does the member know what I mean? We are still making some arrangements that will be finished by the end of this fiscal year. Everything will be in the new estimates.

Mr. Bernier: I am trying to understand it. The Ministry of Natural Resources has all the funds until this fiscal year is completed and then they will be moved over?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It will transfer responsibility and the money with it too. That will be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Bernier: Does he have any idea of the budget he will have?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Not at this time. I assure the member it will be adequate for the needs of the mining sector.

Mr. Bernier: I asked this question on page 5 of my opening statement: In view of the reduction in the expenditures of the ministry this year in comparison to the overall expenditures of the government, I wonder whether the minister will be bringing forward some supplementary estimates, and how he is going to look after this shortfall and still keep the government's commitments to northern Ontario.

9:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: There will probably be some shortfall, but if there is, it is not my fault. It was done by the member's government. I did change its budget, especially on the roads. There is $2 million left from the year before. That was done by the Tory administration, not mine. I assure the member we will have enough money to finish the fiscal year with Nordev, as I said before, and then we will be putting in a new demand for the new budget. I can assure the member I will get my share.

Mr. Bernier: On Nordev directly, another $10 million has been added to the budget. Where is that in the expenditures? I do not see it anywhere. I do not see any supplementary estimates. It was added after the fact, as we were going to do in our administration.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Be assured the money is there. I can assure the member of that. We will make a full report in the next estimates and the next budget. I am fulfilling all the commitments we are receiving.

Mr. Bernier: I fail to understand how the minister can flow funds in this fiscal year when they are not incorporated in his estimates and he has not asked for any supplementary estimates. Is that not contrary to the statutes? How can the minister spend money that is not voted?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will give my friend a full report tomorrow.

Mr. Pierce: There are a couple of items I would like to address to the minister, in full recognition of what the Minister of Northern Development and Mines means to the people of northwestern and northern Ontario. That ministry, through friendly persuasion and consultation with other ministries, is able to acquire some funds to do different things in the north that we are not able to do in other places in Ontario. I recognize the minister's comments about the development needs for secondary industry and the attention his ministry wants to pay to assisting the tourism and manufacturing industries.

It is a known fact that in northwestern Ontario there are many areas not currently serviced by hydro. I realize hydro services are not a direct responsibility of the minister but, given the mandate of the ministry, I am sure he would accept looking at ways and means of promoting further development of the hydro corridors. I am talking about hydro corridors with respect to serviceable power to the buyers, not large transmission lines that go over the top of one's property but from which one cannot draw power because the transformation is not there.

We have many areas in northwestern Ontario that are competing with other parts of Ontario and are generating power by means of diesel plants, yet the transmission lines go right by their facilities.

I hope in the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines the minister would look at being able to provide some source of revenue to assist the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio), if that is the case, or to encourage Ontario Hydro to provide better access to hydro for the development of secondary industries and certainly that of the tourism industry. As well, there are a number of tourist operators whose

lodges are almost directly under high transmission lines but at the same time they do not have access to hydro.

The minister made reference in his remarks to addressing freight rates as they reflect on the opportunities for secondary manufacturing in northwestern Ontario. During the debate on fuel tax, the minister and I had some words. My feeling at that time was that the increased taxes on diesel fuel would have an effect on the movement of products in and out of northern and northwestern Ontario.

Again, I would hope that the minister would have some influence on the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) in the promotion of secondary industry and manufacturing for northwestern Ontario and be able to promote the movement of tourists in northwestern Ontario. Somewhere along the line I hope he can influence the Treasurer to look at some form of subsidy or a reduction of taxes for those people in the north who would assist in those types of industries.

I want to assure the minister that all the members representing constituents in northwestern Ontario are here to better the life in the north. We are here to assist the minister wherever we can, but we also know that we have to rely on the minister to go with the heavy hand and carry the weighted mallet to the cabinet meetings to ensure that he gets his fair share to spread around the north and make the north–not a better place to live, because we feel we have one of the best places in Ontario to live now, but a more equitable place to live and to raise our youth.

The minister referred to the lack of youth employment in the north. I do not think any member from northern Ontario can deny there is a lack of opportunity for the young people who stay in northern Ontario. Yet there is an interior, personal drive in the north by people who want to stay there. They are prepared to go out and get their education someplace else because all the educational facilities are not available to them, but then they want to go back and be able to take their income out of the north and raise their families there.

I hope that when the minister is looking at his estimates, presenting his budget and spending his money, he will look further into providing areas for our youth to use their skills and expertise to enable them to stay in the northern part of the province.

One thing we should make note of is that a lot of the young people in northern and northwestern Ontario are very much prepared to be entrepreneurs, to strike out on their own, to establish secondary manufacturing industries, to get involved in tourism and to put up some money, but at the same time they may require some assistance.

I hope the minister will look very favourably on continuing the programs that are already in existence to assist those opportunites and that he will look even a little beyond that and provide additional assistance to make sure that those young people in the north will have an opportunity to use their skills, expertise and personal commitment to develop those industries.

The minister made a number of comments in his opening remarks about being able to assist in the development and promotion of secondary industries. Again, we in the northwest region have had some experience with the closing of iron ore mines and the cutbacks that are taking place because of modernization in the paper mills and a number of other areas.

Some secondary manufacturing is going on in northwestern Ontario, contrary to comments by some other members, but there is a problem in developing those secondary industries in just being able to secure the necessary supplies to further develop a product to its finished state.

10 p.m.

I would refer to such manufacturing industries as aluminum boats and fibreglass products where a small manufacturer may order a full truckload of his product from eastern Ontario. He ends up getting a half truckload, pays for a full truckload and then has to get the other half truckload later on because he is not the supplier's biggest customer. It reflects on the end-line product the person is manufacturing.

Freight rates are one of the biggest deterrents to setting up manufacturing in northwestern Ontario. The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) made very strong representation and strong reference to the cost of moving the product in and out of northwestern Ontario, and it works both ways. I hope the minister will go to cabinet with a very strong voice and a strong commitment to the secondary manufacturing industries of northwestern Ontario and let it be known that secondary industry cannot develop without government assistance. Certainly the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is looked on as being the ministry of the north and the ministry that represents all the factors that are involved.

The minister knows that his ministry is responsible for such things as extended health care and extended health care beds. It also assists in making sure the hospitals and the hospital care units in northwestern Ontario have good repre-

sentation and are able not necessarily to compete but to provide the services that are due those people in northwestern Ontario as well as anyplace else in the province. I hope the minister will continue to look at those facilities as being very necessary and as a very strong part of his commitment to the north, and that he will continue with the program of extended care hospitals beds in northwestern Ontario and other facilities that assist the hospitals in providing those very necessary services.

We and the minister have made reference to youth, what they represent to the north and what happens to them. We also must pay more attention to the fact that although we have excellent primary and secondary schools in northern Ontario and also an excellent university and excellent colleges in northern Ontario, we still do not have enough of them. We still have to transport our children in many directions for them to get their educations.

As much as the universities are not the direct responsibility of the ministry, this is certainly a flag the minister has to carry in cabinet. He has to represent all the people of the north, including the youth, and make sure those types of facilities are as available to the north as they are to the south, the east and the west.

I heard the minister make reference tonight to robots and say that our youth may not even know what robots are. However, the EduCap program that is in place through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is more than deserving of any credit that anybody wants to give it. It is exciting to go into the schools in northern Ontario and see large banks of computers, where the students are learning to operate computers that are supplied under an EduCap grant. It is exciting to go into schools with new gymnasiums, see the facilities provided under EduCap and talk to the students who come out and say, "Because of the EduCap grants to my high school, I now have taken a full course in photography and other projects."

I am sure the minister is prepared to respond. I hope he will keep that program a high-priority program within the ministry.

I am sorry I did not get to this other item before the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) left, but we talk about tourism and what it represents to northern Ontario. I mention northern Ontario because it represents a very strong part of our economy.

Oh, the minister is in the gallery. I am sorry. I am glad to see that.

The biggest complaint I hear from the tourism operators is about how badly regulated or how heavily regulated the tourism industry is. The minister is in the gallery; I am glad to see that. In many cases, the tourism industry is gasping for breath and saying: "Give us a break. Get off the regulations and give us some room to operate."

There are many areas throughout northern and northwestern Ontario that are no longer been designated as growth areas. The lakes they are situated on are at their saturation point as far as development is concerned. No additional tourism operators are being allowed to go to them or move to them. The existing tourist operators are no longer allowed to expand their operations.

At the same time, we are allowing with no control whatsoever–in fact, a group from British Columbia put something in the neighbourhood of 100 houseboats into Ontario, which will go on the lakes with no regulation whatsoever. They will not know the number of people they can carry. At some place, there is a crossover between three or four ministries, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health and Lord only knows what other ministries. Nobody is sure who has control. Those houseboats will be placed on the small inland waters and will take up a fair amount of what have already been classed as saturated lakes.

I hope the minister in conjunction with the Minister of Natural Resources will take a very serious look at what is happening to our lakes and how that reflects on tourism development in northwestern Ontario.

Because I am on the standing committee on resources development, I have had the opportunity to sit in on the estimates. Yesterday and the night before we talked about how concerned we were about the north. I know the minister is concerned about the north, as we are.

I look at the structure of the committee set up by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), the Rent Review Advisory Committee. There is one representative from all of northern Ontario, from Ottawa west to the Manitoba border and from Toronto north to Hudson Bay. That is what we are to consider or call good representation and an opportunity for consultation.

I say to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines quite strongly that he has to be aware of what the other ministries are doing in northern Ontario. That is not good representation. He should pay attention to that kind of thing because it is happening and we are not being represented.

As minister, he is our representative for northwestern and northern Ontario.

I ask him to take a very serious look at that. I have asked the Minister of Housing to look at including more representation from the north. I am sure the minister will want to do the same thing.

In travelling throughout the north, I have had an opportunity to sit with the chambers of commerce in northern Ontario and to study the responses to the recommendations of Mr. Fahlgren of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. The questions that are raised on numerous occasions in the areas I go through are: "When is the government of the day going to respond to the RCNE? Is it going to respond? Is the report going to be responded to in a piecemeal fashion just as occasion arises or as a question comes up? Is the government going to respond only to those specific questions?" I ask the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, is something being set up under his ministry to give an official response to the RCNE report?

As everybody in the House knows, and as the members who are no longer here know, there has been a lot of time and money, and particularly a lot of time, spent by a lot of northern people who put themselves out to make themselves available to provide input to the study. They now are awaiting anxiously the response of the government.

10:10 p.m.

Another item that has me between a rock and a hard place is the shoreline protection program that was announced by the Minister of Natural Resources in conjunction with the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître). As the minister is aware, the areas we represent are not always part of municipalities, and yet we do have large areas with shorelines that require as much protection as those within municipalities.

I ask the minister whether it is within his ministry to either petition the other two ministers or at least look within the budget of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to provide some funds to assist the camp owners, the tourist operators and the other property owners on inland lakes, who are facing the same kinds of problems as those people on the Great Lakes waterways. High water is not restricted to the Great Lakes.

Before the Great Lakes suffer high-water levels, a number of inland lakes and waterways fill up. This is not the first time this topic has come up. The minister has inland lakes within his own area that are suffering from shoreline damage because of high waters. These areas do not come under the guidelines that were established by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Natural Resources.

I would like to address a number of other items, but I would also like the minister to respond to some of the items to which I have referred. Given the time, I will withhold my other comments and let the minister respond.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I thank my friend the member for Rainy River for his supportive remarks. He talked about EduCap and EldCap. These good programs were put in place by my friend the member for Kenora, and I give the former government full marks for them.

I am continuing them, and I approve at least five or six applications a month. Some areas were bypassed, and I do not know the reason. With regard to EldCap, Algoma riding was bypassed for many years. We approved three there and we will continue that support.

I was in Big Trout Lake a few months ago. We did not build an EldCap there, but a senior citizens' complex was approved by the federal government. They were ready to go ahead, but they had to cut $85,000. The chief was ready to cut the common room, and I told him, "Do not cut the common room because a senior citizens' complex without a common room—you might as well not build it all." My ministry decided to pay for the common room there.

Those two programs the member was talking about, EldCap and EduCap, are up for review because they are at the end of their three years. We are now going to see how we can improve them, especially EduCap. Some small high schools now have better systems than the bigger ones.

I am now getting pressure from the bigger high schools. I was telling my friend the member for Sudbury East that an example in Hearst, Cochrane and in his area, is the equipment in the shops of those schools that was bought in 1967 or 1968. We will have to look into that and, through EduCap and the Minister of Education, try to make inroads with this.

As for the issue of houseboats, my ministry is discussing this with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) and the Minister of Natural Resources. A few weeks ago I was telling the member for Kenora and the member for Sudbury East that my ministry is working on a ten-year strategy, but for this we have to work with other ministries. This sometimes frustrates me and my deputy minister, but we are going to

keep on telling them of the need in the field of cottage lots.

I tell members sincerely that I do not see why a town like Ignace or Kapuskasing has no cottage lots. I did not do that; that is the previous minister or somebody. They put out a report in Kapuskasing that there were no lots for sale. Hearst was lucky. I do not why. Maybe somebody worked harder in the Ministry of Natural Resources office. This is an industry, and we have to keep our eyes on that.

We have to keep our eyes on that because, as I said to my honourable friend, working men in the north are not golfers and curlers. That group is a minority. So workers in the north and other people from the south who want to come north to have cottage lots should be allowed to do so. That is my personal thinking and the thinking of my ministry. I am going to suggest that some lots in the north should be up for sale to allow the people in the north to have their own lots, and other people in Ontario as well.

If they are Americans, I do not care. It is an industry, and it is the kind of industry we will have to capitalize on. As we were saying a few minutes ago, it is hard to move some industries, such as a Toyota plant, to the north, so we have to use other kinds of initiatives.

As for the northern representation for housing, I discussed that with the minister today and I will see what we can do. I want to remind my honourable friend that I have dealt with housing since 1972. Do members know how many civil servants worked for housing in the northeast? There was one. His name is Denis Desmeules. He lived in Sudbury and he had to cover Sault Ste. Marie, Parry Sound and all those ridings. One man. At least we can have more than one to work in the field as the representative on this committee. I have to admit I did not look at it. I heard that today from others. I will talk to the Minister of Housing who was here a few minutes ago.

Another way to get people involved–like now we are here together but we must get the feedback from our grass roots. This is the way I wish the regional development would be planned, to help us. We are talking about representation on housing, and when we get feedback from the people it helps us to talk to the minister. We can say, "Here is what the people think and what they want." It is going to give them, and us too, a bigger voice at Queen's Park.

I received a letter yesterday from a municipal advisory committee member. He signed the letter because of the resolution, but he said he was a bit mad. I answered him today, saying that if one is going to supply nine or 10 development councils, with four or five members from the municipality, that is 50. Before they only had about 20.

We have to admit that some MACs were working well, but there were some that did not work well for many years. It all depends on the chairman. My friend the member for Kenora knows in the northeast the last one worked well, but the ones before did not work too well. Nobody went to the meetings. Then what happened? On the one that was working well this time, nobody was re-elected. Most of them lost the election; for example, Mr. Martin from Blind River or Elliot Lake, for example. This way, by putting them on the other regional development councils, at least the people at large will not lose every three years or two years.

10:20 p.m.

We have the same problem with the native people. They have a chief and they have a good thing going. Then the chief loses the election and they have to start over again. With the natives in the north, we will have to establish a kind of development council, a culture committee. We will take not only the elected council but also outsiders as members.

I told municipal groups and others to form their own industrial co-operation council and take the people at large. If there is an election and one or two politicians lose, I tell the town to keep things going if possible, such as the nonprofit housing authority. I am prepared to help in that regard also. The ministry and the economic development corporation are prepared to help the smaller towns get organized in the nonprofit field.

Regarding the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, I wonder whether Mr. Fahlgren thinks we are moving too slowly. We are moving as fast as we can, given the need to consult. A few moments ago I gave a list to the member for Algoma. I will not go through it again. I could give him a similar list of where we are and where we are going. The two groups that wish to make submissions on the royal commission should get them to me. We will review them carefully and talk to the groups involved.

It looks as though we are not doing anything, but members must remember some things were started before, such as the airport and the forest management agreements; they were part of all that.

Now we are negotiating with the natives and, as I say, we are working with them on the Mining Act and on the resources base. I met with David

Crombie this week. I am suggesting to him some avenues with regard to forestry, fishing and mining. Now we are working on mining. I gave him some ideas on forestry to discuss with the Minister for Energy in the near future.

One area of the Fahlgren report we have not covered yet, and I mentioned it a bit tonight, is education. I am taking the Minister of Education up north in March. We are taking three days and maybe a week. We are going to the reserves, Sioux Lookout, Moosonee and the towns near the 50th parallel and north of the 51st. Mr. Fahlgren commented on northern high schools, but he did not say a large chunk of the funding and direction of education for natives comes from Ottawa.

I met with Mr. Crombie yesterday. We are going to form a working committee with my ministry and the Ministry of Education to figure out a plan of action for education for natives in the north. We are looking at using Sioux Lookout as a base. I have already discussed that with the Nishnawbi-Aski. They are going to their chief and we are looking at that. We do not believe there should only be one northern school for natives. There should be at least another one in the northwest.

The list is long of what we have done with the royal commission's report since we took over. I will give that to the member as a written response so he can see where we are going. He can add to it later. I cannot give a full response to that. I will make a checklist and the member can check it with what Mr. Fahlgren said, what the previous government did and where we are going. We are far advanced in some applications and very close to a breakthrough on others.

On the shoreline issue, I will bring that to the attention of my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Natural Resources. We will examine the problem and I invite the member to bring it to their attention.

That was my response to the member for Rainy River.

Mr. Pierce: I thank the minister for his responses. Because we do have some time left, with the permission of the Chairman, I would like to address some other items.

The minister has not touched on some of the items I asked about: freight rates, fuel taxes, back-hauls, hydro along the main corridors, the highways on which people are required to run their own diesel generating plants at high cost and as a result are uncompetitive in the marketplace.

The minister knows how necessary roads are for providing an opportunity for secondary industries. I want to be sure the minister pays as much attention as previous governments have done to the development of roads in northern Ontario. He should also pay due attention to airport development and to assisting in the construction of helipads at hospitals, because there is certainly no advantage in extending 24-hour helicopter service in cases of emergency care if we have hospitals that have no landing areas. Perhaps the minister can respond to some of those items.

I am sure the minister found out when he was up north that education in the north in the native community is primarily a federal matter and that the bulk of the funds is provided by the federal government. In primary education, for example, the commitment to that education system by the federal government is much higher than that of the provincial government to schools serving other than native population. The per capita grants are much higher in the native community than they are in the organized communities.

So while he is in discussion with the Minister of Education on how they would best approach the native education program with the feds, I am sure he will also want to look at the other programs for the organized communities. I am sure he has been receiving petitions and letters from primary school teachers on the deficiency or the shortfall of funds, as have other members. If he would pay some attention to that and address it at the same time, I am sure it would be well received.

I specifically would like the minister to address the secondary industry situation and how it relates to communities in northwestern and northern Ontario, and to ensure that he will have input to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology in ensuring that the programs currently in place under that ministry, such as those that come under the Northern Ontario Development Corp., the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. and the Ontario Development Corp. will remain in place so that industry has an opportunity at least to get off the ground and get started. There is a great potential for secondary industry in northwestern Ontario if it is given a chance, and that chance, of course, has to have some assistance from the minister.

There have been some comments about Toyota plants. Every community in northwestern Ontario cannot expect to get a Toyota plant, but certainly the ministries can help the communities to develop in such a way that they may be able to

provide some of the components that are required by such establishments as a Toyota plant. I know that the committee in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines that is structured now to study single-resource communities will also be making some recommendations to the minister about those industries.

Maybe with that, the minister will have an opportunity to respond to some of those items and that will take the time of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will answer those questions tomorrow.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Fontaine, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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First Session, 33rd Parliament
Friday, February 7, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, February 7, 1986

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

YOUNG OFFENDER

Mr. Pope: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Yesterday the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) made a statement, and I am quoting from Instant Hansard:

"The reality is that if a transfer application had been made, it would have been made before this government was in office, as a practical matter, but that is not the answer and I do not hold the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) responsible for what happened."

First, this matter was not brought to my attention by the law officers of the crown during the all-too-brief time I was Attorney General. If it had been, it would have been in adult court.

Second, the Attorney General's statement, which I just read, is not in conformity with subsections 16(1) and 16(7) of the Young Offenders Act, which indicate that an application may be made to remove the matter from the young offenders' court to an adult court at any time before judgement.

Mr. Speaker: I remind the member that this is not a point of privilege. Often we allow a point of personal explanation if one is correcting one's own record. However, I believe you were trying to correct something else.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I was incorrect. My learned friend was in office for only 39 days, and it is correct to say that he, his predecessor or I could have made the determination. I am confident that the right course was taken by the fact that neither Mr. McMurtry nor the member for Cochrane South acted in this way.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Hon. Mr. Scott: As part of the government's ongoing commitment to consult widely with all interested groups before we formulate legislation to implement pay equity in the private and broader public sector, I am pleased to announce to this House the formation of two advisory committees on pay equity.

These two groups shall be known as the Premier's Business Advisory Committee on Pay Equity and the Premier's Labour Advisory Committee on Pay Equity. They will meet regularly with the Premier (Mr. Peterson), myself and senior government officials to expedite the free flow of ideas and exchange of information that our government believes is essential to the successful achievement of pay equity in this province.

Among the issues to be addressed by the advisory committees are the need for uncomplicated administrative guidelines for job evaluation, which will serve the needs of business and labour; the need to differentiate between legitimate supply and demand considerations and wage discrimination in pay, and the need to develop systems that will assist in the implementation of pay equity within the framework of the existing collective bargaining process.

Our government recognizes that both business and labour may have implementation concerns and constructive advice about the application of this government's commitment to pay equity that must be addressed, and addressed speedily, at the highest levels of government.

The Premier personally desires to hear those views from the leaders in both industry and labour who will be involved in implementing the principle of pay equity in a practical manner in the work place. Pay equity is a major issue of our times. It is likely to have a significant impact on all sectors of the province. The formation of these two advisory committees demonstrates our government's commitment to open government and a policy of direct personal consultation with all interested parties on major issues such as this.

The consultation process will complement the public hearing process that will begin next week in five regional centres throughout Ontario.

I would like to table the names of the members of the Premier's Business Advisory Committees on Pay Equity and the Premier's Labour Advisory Committee on Pay Equity. We are confident these two committees will prove to be a significant resource for government as we turn to developing our implementation strategy.

In addition, I sincerely hope the direct access to the Premier and his advisers afforded by the

creation of these committees will help allay the concerns of those who fear pay equity will be accomplished unilaterally by a stroke of the legislative pen.

As I have told this House several times in the past few months, the issue is not whether pay equity will be achieved, but how. The commitment to its achievement has been made. We have already embarked on a program of consultation with all concerned groups and individuals. Only when that process has been completed will we proceed to draft the legislation.

All legitimate concerns will be heard and acted upon. We are determined to implement this policy in a framework of fiscal responsibility. We will act to implement pay equity policy in a prudent manner, always bearing in mind our responsibility to all the people of the province.

ORAL QUESTIONS

NURSING HOME BEDS

Mr. Pope: We were told only two ministers would be absent. Is the the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) here?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We are expecting him.

Mr. Pope: I will ask the Premier then.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The weather is not good. I would rather you waited until he arrives.

Mr. Pope: It does not matter.

I would like to ask the Premier a question about his priorities in health care in this province. He is quoted in the papers this morning as indicating he expects there to be full debate and discussion in the legislative committee that will be examining Bill 94 during the next six to eight weeks, and perhaps even beyond that. Given that fact, he is no doubt aware that last spring, about 10 months ago, the previous government announced the approval and funding of 4,500 additional nursing home beds in this province, including 1,570 in the following 18 months. Those needs were established by district health councils and the officials in the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Pope: The Minister of Health confirmed on December 11 in estimates that these beds had been put on hold for 10 months now and the number would be reduced below the 4,500.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Pope: Rather than spending his time in heating up the rhetoric with doctors and other health care providers of this province, why does the Premier not adjourn the debate on Bill 94 and negotiate with the doctors until the next session a package of universal accessibility to protect our senior citizens and those who are disadvantaged and bring into being these chronic care beds that are needed by the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I told the honourable member's leader yesterday, I am prepared to sit down with the Ontario Medical Association at any time it would like to discuss chronic care beds, accessibility, design of the system and many of the big issues that face this province, not just now but in the long term. I have been anxious to have that discussion for a long time. Certainly, chronic and nursing home beds are part of that. I am mindful of promises the former government made prior to the campaign, in the heat of the campaign and after May 2 as well. They had so many different positions on so many different issues during those days it is tough to figure out exactly which one the member is actually standing for.

10:10 a.m.

I can ask the minister to discuss the question of the nursing home beds allocation with the member. I do not know specific details on that, but I assure him we are prepared to discuss it with anybody. We are moving ahead on a number of fronts at the same time.

Mr. Rowe: The Premier may make light of those things, but 113 of the 4,500 beds were allocated for Simcoe county by the previous government. As a result of this government's failure to act on that commitment, we now have a critical situation at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, a situation accurately described in Wednesday's Toronto Star.

When is the government going to stop using its highly paid aides as media flacks and start dealing with the real issues, such as the shortage of beds in the health care system in this province?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Does the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) remember the Windsor chronic care hospital? Remember those 20 years. What a bunch of hypocrisy.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: In all that flourish, the minister and I are not sure what the member's real concerns are. I cannot see the newspaper he is waving in front of me from here. If he wants to send that over, I will be happy to read it for him or to him. I will take the member's concerns to the minister.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The Tories might realize that had they banned extra billing when the Canada Health Act came in, the $50 million to

pay for nursing home beds would already be in the Treasury of this province.

Instead of the government looking at putting expensive institutional beds, such as nursing home beds, in place and instead of the very limited home care programs for the frail elderly the government announced a couple of weeks ago, would it not make a lot more sense to have a universal program across this province to keep people out of chronic care hospitals and nursing homes?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member makes a good point. As we see it, it is going to require a multiplicity of strategies, not just one solution to the phenomenon of changing demographics and an ageing population. Our preference is for community-based, noninstitutional care. We demonstrated that commitment in the last budget. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) put forward $13 million in that regard–he will correct me if I am wrong–to demonstrate our commitment to those principles.

At the same time, there will be a need for new nursing home beds and chronic care beds, and we recognize that. There are phenomenal pressures right across the province and they are legitimate pressures. I can tell the member about the needs in Windsor and in many other communities.

The member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe) will be aware, even though he is new in this House, that we inherited a legacy of inaction in this area and we are addressing this. If the member is suggesting that these problems developed in the past six months, I do not think even my friend opposite would have the temerity to stand in this House and make that suggestion.

Mr. Dean: Instead of fighting with the physicians in Hamilton-Wentworth and other parts of Ontario, in the light of the concern of many seniors' groups, including the Ontario Nursing Home Association, that nursing homes are having to care for more and more patients with Alzheimer's disease who require more care than the three or four hours of care per day they are set up to provide, why does the Premier not direct the Minister of Health to use his energies to provide the means to make it possible for nursing homes to provide proper care for Alzheimer's patients?

Can he tell this House what steps he is going to take to deal with the crucial shortage of adequate care for this tragically disabling disease?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member accuses me of fighting with the doctors. Then he suggests I am not working with the seniors. It is the seniors who support our position of ending extra billing. I saw a survey the other day–and the member can correct me if I am wrong–indicating that 68 per cent of seniors had been extra billed and that they strongly supported the position of this government. They are most anxious to have our support in that regard to protect their accessibility to quality medicine.

They are also aware of the tremendous pressures on the health care dollar and they are anxious to see the $50 million the province will get from the federal government put into chronic care beds, nursing homes and other things to improve the quality of health care.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Wentworth (Mr. Dean) has to learn to control his front bench. They are making so much noise it is tough for you and I to have a thoughtful dialogue on this subject.

YOUNG OFFENDER

Mr. Gillies: I have a question for the Attorney General with regard to the case that was discussed in this House yesterday under the Young Offenders Act. The Attorney General has told the House and every media outlet in Ontario that Judge Cecil Ball was wrong in his decision not to find the young offender insane. Having made this allegation, how can he expect anyone in Ontario to be tried in the courtroom of Judge Ball and have any confidence that his judgement will be correct? He has left a cloud over this judge and I ask him to clear it up now.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The conception that my friend has that judges are never wrong is not shared by either judges or lawyers. It is a fact that judges are frequently wrong. They are well-intentioned and do their best, but like even Conservative legislators, they are occasionally wrong. Judges are used to being told they are wrong. They are told by appeal courts day after day that their decisions are wrong.

The point I was making yesterday was that under this act there is no appeal permitted in the case of a finding of sanity or insanity. It was my view that an appeal should be allowed. I propose to ask the federal government to permit an appeal in cases of this type; but to say it is odd to say judges are wrong is just inconsistent with one thousand years of legal tradition.

Mr. Gillies: In the Attorney General's answers yesterday and today he has tried to shift the blame for blowing this case away to everybody but the crown and himself. I remind the minister that Judge Ball told the court and asked the crown attorney during the trial if the crown would like

the case transferred to adult court and was told no.

Will the Attorney General admit to this House now that both he and the crown attorney blew it and that the adjudication of this case, which is unsatisfactory was not the fault of Judge Ball but the fault of the crown? It was the fault of the Attorney General and his officials.

Hon. Mr. Scott: We are getting just a touch hysterical. It was only two weeks ago that my learned friend had me on the late show at 10:30 p.m. because he was appalled that a judge in Brantford had made what he called a wrong decision. He was entitled to call a Brantford judge wrong, but he thinks it is reprehensible for me to say I believe the judge to be wrong in this case. It is quite acceptable and it is frequently done by the courts of appeal. There is nothing wrong with it.

If he wants the answer on the conduct of the crown attorney, it is fully provided in the editorial this morning in the Globe and Mail to which I refer him. It was a judgement call that was made. As the Globe and Mail said, it was not an incorrect judgement.

Mr. Gillies: I should hardly need to quote from the Young Offenders Act to the Attorney General, but I will: "After attaining the age of 14 years, a youth court may, on application of the young person or his counsel, or the Attorney General or his agent, move the proceedings to an ordinary court."

Will the Attorney General admit now that the fault in this case was not so much with the judgement or with the judge, but with his failure and that of his agent, the crown attorney, to move the case into an adult court?

Hon. Mr. Scott: As I said yesterday and as my friend would know if he read the statute, no one has a right, least of all me, to move it into an adult court. I cannot do that. What one can ask the judge to do–

Mr. Timbrell: The minister can ask.

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The member should cool his heels a little bit while I give the answer.

One can ask the judge to conduct a transfer hearing. The judgement in this case, which almost everybody agrees was the right judgement, was that because the boy was just 14 and the evidence pointed overwhelming to his insanity, a transfer order would not have been made. As my friend will know, if the boy was under 14 the case could not have been transferred. In other words, if this case had occurred some weeks earlier it would have been compulsorily tried in the family court. The reality is that there is this flaw, among others, in the legislation. It should be remedied by permitting an appeal in important cases of this type.

SEVERANCE PAY

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Last week the Premier (Mr. Peterson) admitted that there were abuses of severance pay legislation and indicated that the Ministry of Labour was going to develop specific remedies. Can the minister explain what remedies he has in mind to deal with the inadequacies in severance pay legislation?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: If the honourable member will remember back to the first debate in 1981, he will know that a number of remedies are available to us. The size of the firm, which is now set at 50 with a possible reduction from 50, is one possible remedy to add to the number of workers gaining severance pay, as is the minimum threshold level of five years.

In addition, there are a number of other remedies. The definition of "establishment," which is a key issue in the current dispute with Dominion Stores, is another possible remedy. There are a number of remedies, and we are actively reviewing them.

I remain hopeful that, whatever changes we make, those very positive changes, which I am sure my honourable friend agrees would be positive, will not be completely negated by the ill-considered decision of the federal government to deduct severance dollar for dollar with regard to unemployment insurance.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister must be aware–at least I know he was when he was in opposition–that very few workers in Ontario actually receive severance pay. The latest figures from his ministry indicate that less than one per cent of the workers who are laid off in Ontario actually receive severance pay.

Is the minister prepared to change the law, and when, so that every worker who is permanently laid off will receive severance pay in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The member raises a good point. This is the object of the review that is going on. We are looking at one possibility. For example, as the member will know, partial closures and full closures are the only matters that are now caught by the act. We are also looking at the possibility of recognizing entitlement in the area of reduced operations.

I do not expect the review to be complete in the next few days. I hope it will be complete so that we may see some legislation in the next session.

Mr. Gillies: In reviewing this legislation, will the minister look at two provisions that are troublesome: one being the size of the layoff, the 50-person-plus clause, and the other being the definition of "temporary layoff"?

The minister will know that there are Massey-Ferguson workers in Brantford who have now been on temporary layoff for four years. Will he undertake to close those two loopholes when he does his review?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I can tell my friend that I will look at the numbers, the threshold level of 50. I remind my him that when he and I were here in our first term, we moved an amendment to reduce the number from 50 to 20, and it seems to me that the majority party of the day voted against that amendment. I do not know whether the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) was one of them that night; however, we will be reviewing that.

I might say in passing that, as time goes on, we are finding we need to review very extensively the entire Employment Standards Act, which the previous government appears to have forgotten existed with regard to significant amendments after 1975.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister is quoted in this morning's paper as indicating that Black owes his workers an apology. The minister will know that an apology from Conrad Black does not resolve the problem of Black ripping off the pension fund and denying severance pay to the Dominion workers.

Will the minister assure us that in the meeting he reportedly has this coming Monday with the workers he will guarantee that the Dominion Stores workers will receive severance pay and that the sick and slanderous remarks of the likes of a Conrad Black will not be tolerated in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: No, I cannot guarantee that there will be severance pay. The matter is going to a referee, Professor Brown from the University of Windsor, later this month, as I am sure the member knows.

In response to reporters' questions, I have indicated my concern about the remarks of Mr. Black which I consider to be highly inappropriate and to have attacked "all workers in that company" in a very unfair way. Obviously, I will hear from the Dominion Stores workers. While we can have a dispute on severance pay, I remain hopeful that Mr. Black will come forward and indicate his remarks were as inappropriate as all members think they were.

ST. CLAIR RIVER

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Yesterday we were treated to comments from the leader of the official opposition to the effect that talking about the quality of the St. Clair River maligns the town of Sarnia and is merely an attempt to curry favour with Toronto yuppies. I want to assure the Minister of Natural Resources that we in this party believe issues around the St. Clair River to be very serious and one of the most serious is the question of sports fishing.

The minister will know that last December his ministry paid more than $600,000 to buy out the last commercial fishing licences in Lake St. Clair. Can the minister tell us why the public is paying that compensation and why no attempt is being made to have known polluters and violators of this province's environmental laws contribute to the cause?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The situation, as it exists on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources, has nothing to do with the pollution aspect. We are taking the gill-netters out of the St. Clair River because there was too much pressure put on the fishery. The buyout, which the member has described as in the $600,000 to $700,000 range, is to reduce the pressure on the fish that are there to be taken. We are doing that right across Ontario. We are doing everything we can to give everyone the assurance there will be enough harvest for sports fishermen and to keep a viable commercial fishery going.

There are places where the pressure is so great we have had to take the initiative, but I do not think it addresses the situation as it relates to the pollution of the St. Clair River; that responsibility rests with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and he is doing an excellent job. I support him in his initiatives.

Mrs. Grier: I find that a little difficult to accept, given that the beginning of the ban on fishing for pickerel in Lake St. Clair was in 1970 when mercury was discovered in the lake. The buyout that occurred last December was merely a completion of that process.

Given that we know the pollution in pickerel and other fish was part of the reason for the ban on commercial fishing, what does the minister intend to do to protect the sports fishermen?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have to correct the honourable member. The buyout had nothing to do with the pollution aspect. It was because of the pressures on the fishery. What has been done is to provide a guide for the safe consumption of

pickerel or any other kind of fish we have in Ontario. We are providing the kind of information necessary to the sports fishing public to be able to address itself to the safety of eating the fish, but the question should not be put to the Minister of Natural Resources because the buyout was not due to any pollution of the waters.

Mr. Pope: I know the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) will be interested in the comments of the Minister of Natural Resources that he is buying out gill fishermen all across the province.

Will the minister confirm that, in spite of the efforts of the third party, sports fishing in the Sarnia-Lake St. Clair area is growing in popularity and usage of the resource and that is why he is buying out the commercial fishermen?

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, it is increasing; that is one of the reasons there was too much pressure. If I gave an indication that we were buying out across Ontario, that is not what I meant. I meant the policy is across the province. Wherever this heavy pressure has to be relieved it is going to be done in the best possible way. What we are talking about in some areas is trap-netting; we catch the fish live so the incidental catch does not impact on us attempting to manage the industry.

It is going very well. It is in good hands. Whenever I can get good water anywhere I will stock, particularly when I get the money from the fishing licences.

Mrs. Grier: Does the minister get a chance to change his answer to my second question in view of the crib sheets he has just received from the Minister of the Environment, or do I have to place my third question?

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mrs. Grier: Let me say to the minister,–

Mr. Speaker: By way of question.

Mrs. Grier: By way of question, let me say to the Minister of Natural Resources that I am posing my questions to him today for a very deliberate reason. It is because I would like to ask him to reconcile what appears to me to be a very direct conflict of interest.

Will he not agree that on the one hand, his ministry gains substantial revenue from sports fishing all across this province, and that on the other hand, he is charged with the responsibility of advising the public when its health may be put at risk as a result of pollutants found in fish? Is this not a conflict?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I do not believe it is a conflict at all. We have to face the realities and the impact on the fish in relation to the pollutants. It is considerably different from place to place. It is very different within species. There are fatty fish that are more likely to take on environmental poisons, or however one wants to describe them, that would cause us to be most careful with them.

That is why we provide this guide. It is very important to the sports fishermen. I am sure that as the environment is cleaned up the member is going to see us keeping pace with the taking of the fish, doing the research and all the things that are going to keep people very much aware of how they can use the fish that are caught in our waters.

ACCESS TO ABORTION COMMITTEES

Ms. Fish: I have a question for the Minister of Health regarding procedures that have been put in place for therapeutic abortions at Windsor Western Hospital Centre.

The minister will be aware that the hospital imposes a quota of a maximum of six therapeutic abortions a week, notwithstanding the question of the finding of a doctor that there is a need for an abortion and that failure to have an abortion might otherwise imperil the life and health of the woman. Referrals now will be accepted only from doctors who are active staff members of the hospital, thereby cutting off access for approximately 50 per cent of the women in Windsor and Essex county.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Ms. Fish: Finally, that hospital–

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Ms. Fish: It is coming, Mr. Speaker. It is a matter of putting some of the facts before the minister for the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am just asking ask the member to please place the question.

Ms. Fish: I will be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker. The final point I believe the minister would wish to have in front of him is that the hospital now has required that referrals come from two staff members to the therapeutic abortion committee, rather than the requirement of the Criminal Code of one.

My question in the light of the foregoing is, what has the minister's government, and the minister in particular, done to afford proper health care accessibility for the women of Windsor and Essex?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am aware there are concerns at the Windsor Western Hospital Centre. I know that when we were there not long ago for a very successful convention, just prior to

our convention some picketing had been going on outside the hospital.

We have had discussions over the past several months about accessibility and what procedures are put in place by boards. As the honourable member knows, we are not in a position to direct or dictate with respect to how a hospital carries out that function. I will personally be talking to Mr. Broderick, the administrator there, to see exactly why these situations have arisen and what has prompted him to move in this direction.

Ms. Fish: My supplementary question arises from the minister's indication that he feels he is not in a position to direct. I suggest the minister was prepared to step in and direct in London. In further stepping in to direct, will he deal with the terribly serious allegations from Earl Amyotte, the president of the Local Campaign Life organization, who alleges that he has access to confidential health records of the therapeutic abortion committee, of the doctors at the hospital, of the women seeking abortions at Windsor Western Hospital Centre and of those for whom abortion procedures have been performed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It concerns me a great deal that a person who I presume is a layperson would have access to that information. I will look into that matter very seriously and I promise a report to this House as to how that material became available to people who, from my understanding, have no particular ability to receive it. I will make a full report on that, because when there are questions of confidentiality of medical information it affects all of us extremely seriously. I will deal in very short order with that matter.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is the minister aware of the history behind this, number one being that in a rationalization program between Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital and Grace Hospital in Windsor a few years ago, in which the Ministry of Health was involved, the other hospital that performed therapeutic abortions agreed to no longer perform them, so the major hospital that provides accessibility is Windsor Western?

Behind this whole issue is the fund-raising for the chronic care hospital. The Right to Life group in Windsor has said it will boycott the fund-raising for the chronic care hospital because therapeutic abortions are carried out at Windsor Western.

Will the minister not understand that, no matter what our personal feelings are on the whole issue of abortion, there is a Criminal Code which provides for therapeutic abortions under certain circumstances and it is his responsibility to see that accessibility is provided?

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to the suggestions from the honourable member about the history and its function in the role of planning for hospitals in Windsor, I think all of us acknowledge it has been a complex and complicated matter.

I have to express in public my regret at any person or any group of people taking action that will deprive the community of resources which would enable it to perform or supply services, particularly for chronic care purposes in Windsor, where we know there has historically been a grave deficiency. All of us would hope that any group would not actively go around trying to boycott a fund-raising opportunity.

I again undertake to report to the House very quickly on the confidentiality matter.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have the answer to a question asked previously.

Mr. Speaker: I will take a question from the member for Nickel Belt and then I will recognize the response to the question asked previously.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you for that very fine judgement call.

SPRAY PROGRAM

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources, who I am sure will recall that in the brochure distributed at the open houses on forestry spraying there is a quote on page 15, if the minister wants to turn to it.

It states, "All reports so far have shown that"–then it lists a couple of chemicals–"insecticides used do not pose a significant threat to the environment, and should valid studies ever show differently, spraying of that insecticide would be immediately discontinued."

Given that promise–which is a lie in itself, because there have been valid studies showing it is not safe–and since the Canadian Medical Association Journal found that people living in or near areas of chemical spraying suffered from higher than normal levels of nervous disorders and a low white blood cell count, would the minister put an end to the sham of public consultation on spraying and announce that there will be no chemical spraying in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: There is no sham to the open houses and the public becoming involved in helping to make this decision.

As I have told the critic for the New Democratic Party and the critic for the official opposition, the open houses are to give the public

the kind of information required. The member knows full well a determination has not been made. What we are going to do will come forward from cabinet in about three weeks.

10:40 a.m.

We are being very open and accepting all of the information that is coming forward. I would encourage all of the members of the Legislature to participate. We have not made a decision. What we have before us is a request by my staff to have a mix of biological chemicals and some other types of chemicals. I want to make it clear that nothing has been ordered. We are going to do the right thing. The object, of course, is to prevent tremendous infestation. We are asking for chemicals that are used every day in spraying farm products. Every apple we eat may have been sprayed 10 or 15 times with the same kinds of chemicals and they are accepted as safe by the federal government or the govenment of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the question has been answered.

Mr. Laughren: Surely the minister knows there are a large number of valid studies that I could put to him to show there are dangers from chemicals. If the minister is taking this all so seriously, if he is truly anguishing over whether or not to spray with chemicals, could he please tell me why he set aside three months of consultation with the public on the whole question of fishing licences and only two weeks to deal with the spraying issue?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: One can fish all season but we have a very short time to spray. It really is elementary. We have to spray from mid-May on. We have to work backwards to do the open houses, to get the spray, to get the aircraft lined up, to get the air strips lined up. We have done it in a very responsible way and that is the reason it is structured in that fashion.

Mr. Pope: The minister has already ordered the chemicals to spray in order to do it in the time needed to do it. That is the fact of the matter.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Excuse me, that is not true.

Mr. Pope: Excuse me, it is. The fact of the matter is that the previous government only sprayed bacillus thuringiensis last year, making that decision as a result of the open houses across the province. How can he say they have not make a decision, he is awaiting public consultation, when he told the House three weeks ago there was to be 30 per cent chemical spray this year.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That comment is not appropriate nor proper. The sprays have not been ordered. The open houses–all of the information now is being brought together. There has been no determination made.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, he is absolutely wrong.

Mr. Timbrell: You are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I was not wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a question and answer period, not a discussion period.

The Premier has a response to a question previously asked.

CONTRACT WORKERS

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Yesterday I was asked a question by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) with respect to the question of the food and service workers maintaining their employment at First Canadian Place owned by Olymia and York. He will recall that yesterday I met with representatives of the union. We sat down and chatted. I was asked in the House yesterday what I would do about it and I discussed two aspects of it; the legislation the member would like changed and, an important part to me, protecting the jobs of those roughly 250 people who work there.

This morning I had a meeting with representatives of Olympia and York and we came to the agreement that Olympia and York would write to each of the potential contractors, specifying that as an additional term of tender, the contractor must offer first right of refusal on the job to current employees to the extent needed to perform the services. What that says is that I believe the vast majority of those jobs will be protected.

Mr. McClellan: We have one more cap-in-hand approach by the government to an employer.

Hon.Mr. Peterson: Do you want me to stop?

Mr. McClellan: I want the legislation changed so this never happens again. However, I want to ask this morning if the Premier can tell us whether the jobs which will be retained–and the Premier said he could not guarantee all of them–will be retained with or without loss or pay, with or without loss of seniority or with or without loss of benefit?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the honourable member is asking me whether the union will continue to exist, I have no guarantee of that. He wants me to change the legislation, and I understand that. However, I am more concerned about jobs than I am about protecting

unions. We moved quickly and I believe we have protected the vast majority of those jobs.

I am not in a position to tell him today the terms and conditions of that. The important thing was those roughly 250 women who worked there. We have been able to help them, and that is what I care about.

DOMED STADIUM

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Premier. Given that yesterday the standing committee on public accounts heard from all four bidders on the domed stadium, and three of the four bidders said the process had been unfair and they had been aggrieved by it; and given the fact that each of them indicated to the committee that he could retender without delaying the construction of the dome, does the Premier not think it is fair to the taxpayer of Ontario that he direct the Stadium Corp. of Ontario to allow them to do so?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sure the honourable member is not surprised that the three people who did not win that bid would consider the process or the tendering unfair. It is like his saying the last election was unfair. I do not expect he will ever believe it was fair. That is the reality of the situation.

I assume the member saw the correspondence, the terms and conditions under which those bids were made. They all agreed to the process. They were all quite happy about it, I am told, and were delighted to participate. I also read that some of them may not want to retender, because it is a very expensive process which takes a long time.

The simple answer to his question is no, we are not going to reopen that. If he has any concerns about it, I ask him to speak to William Grenville Davis, someone he respects a great deal I know, who, as vice-chairman of the dome corporation, agrees with our position.

If it is the member's position that he wants to delay this thing forever and wants nothing to happen, let him please stand up and say so. It was completely fair and completely aboveboard, and he has lots of friends on that board who are supervising the situation.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will wait until you are finished.

Mr. Sterling: The Premier and the government should get the idea that although Mr. Davis was a member of this party and the past Premier, and still is a member of this party–

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will wait again and try it again.

Mr. Sterling: As I say, Mr. Davis is no longer a member of this Legislative Assembly, and his responsibilities are much different today than they were when he was a member.

As a member of the Legislative Assembly, I am very concerned about this, because the Premier knows Ellis-Don was not the low bidder, by $8 million. The excuse for giving it to Ellis-Don was the fact that there were some minor shadows in the low bidder's concept.

We found out yesterday that the dome corporation has chosen Ellis-Don, which it now admits has more of the spectators in the shadows than any other proposal does. Who is the Premier for? Is he for the spectators or for the ball players?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Who are we for? Can we caucus this? We are for the spectators.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. Philip: I am sure the Premier would agree that the real shadows are the shadows in the Conservative Party who want to delay the opening of the dome.

Mr. Davis: Why do the members of that party not put on red ties and go and sit over there; it would make it much easier.

Mr. Timbrell: After all, what is $8 million among friends?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Philip: Would the Premier agree that one area that can be reopened which would save the taxpayers a considerable amount is the consortium? Is he aware that the chairman of the dome corporation held a press conference for Labatt's only this week without consulting Carling O'Keefe or Molson's? Would he use his influence on the dome corporation and its chairman to negotiate with those companies and any others and open up that consortium at a saving of $5 million per company for the taxpayers of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There are a number of questions there. The answer is, yes, we want to attract as much private money into the dome corporation as possible.

This thing still has a number of hurdles to get over before it is a fait accompli. It is my view that the entire process should be reviewed in public, as it has been. The members are privy to all the information. I reject the view we should go on tendering forever and just try to defer the proposition. The board that has been assembled

is first class in every respect; the people have great judgement.

I reject the view the gentleman mentioned earlier is even a former Conservative. If his party continues to carry on the way it has from the legislative end, he may join the Liberal Party. We would take him. These people are embarrassing their previous leader.

Mr. Davis: We were never embarrassed by our previous leader; we are embarrassed only by our present Premier.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The other Bill Davis was quiet.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With respect to the money–

Mr. Speaker: Briefly.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: –I understand Labatt's has pulled out of the consortium; it has left its $5 million on the table to make room for the other two breweries. I was not part of those discussions in the committee, but I understand the member heard the other breweries say they were interested and felt they were unfairly treated. Now they have an opportunity to participate in the consortium. I have no idea whether it was Labatt's obligation to tell those two breweries ahead of time what it was going to do. I am not sure of the niceties of the situation. Now they have an opportunity but I want more money, obviously.

[Later]

Mr. Callahan: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the questions by the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) might have cast some shadow on the judgement or integrity of the predecessor in my riding, the great riding of Brampton, I rise to put that on the record.

CONTRACT WORKERS

Mr. McClellan: I want to go back to the Premier on the question of the workers at First Canadian Place. Obviously, he does not understand there is no shortage of jobs for immigrant cleaners in this and many other cities as long as they are willing to work at the minimum wage. That has been the pattern of exploitation of immigrant cleaners for the last 15 years. Once again, another government, another Premier or minister has gone cap in hand to another employer to beg for jobs for immigrant women who have managed to fight for and win a union and decent wages. What protection will he offer them that their wages will not be knocked back down to minimum wage levels?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot guarantee what the wage level will be. My concern was to retain those jobs. I met with a number of those women yesterday. They were in my office. They were very much concerned about their jobs and understandably so. They have experience in that facility. I have extracted from Olympia and York the commitment to retain as many of those jobs as possible. I cannot tell the member what the terms and conditions will be nor when that will be done. I trust it will be done. I know the member's position on the matter and I know what he would like to do with changes in legislation. We are looking at it.

Mr. McClellan: It is the only solution.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is possibly one solution. It can create a number of ill effects I may not want to see. I am not giving him a guarantee I will change that legislation but I will look at it. We are reviewing it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Surely the Premier recognizes the fact that, after six years' service, many of these women–and they are almost all women employees–are up to the magnificent sum of $6.75 to $7.25 an hour. They are now faced with the possibility of the minimum wage once again and maybe none of the benefits they have.

In view of the decision that came down on the Brantwood Manor Nursing Home, which said the firms it hired to do the job for the fired workers were one and the same employer, does the Premier not see the merit in allowing the minimal gains those workers have made to go with them in this change to contracting out? Otherwise, he is missing the whole point. There are jobs at minimum wage in this province.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect, the member and his colleague are getting a little alarmist about this. He is assuming they are going to go from the $6.75 level–I believe that is correct–to minimum wage. He cannot stand in this House and make that assumption.

I cannot tell the member what the wage levels will be. I cannot tell him how it will come out in the wash. The concern to me was those women's jobs, and they have been protected. We have done the best we can to help those people, at least in the short term. That is where this government has assumed its responsibilities.

FUTURES PROGRAM

M. Guindon: J'ai une question pour le ministre de la Formation professionelle. Le programme Futurs comprend trois éléments: l'embauche, les conseils et l'éducation. Le ministre veut-il expliquer, étant donné l'inten-

tion qu'a exprimée son gouvernement d'offrir des services gouvernementaux complets aux francophones, pourquoi les éléments de conseils et d'éducation ne sont pas offerts en français?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am sorry. I got the general thrust of the question, but if the honourable member can summarize it for me in English, because I did not have my earphones on, perhaps I can give him a better answer.

Mr. Guindon: The Futures program has three components: job placement, counselling and education. Given the government's express intention to provide complete government services for francophones, can the minister explain why there are no counselling or education components being offered in French?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not sure that is the case. The member is correct in that there are three components to the Futures program. It is my understanding that where programs are offered in communities such as Sudbury, there are provisions through the community college there, the youth employment counselling centre. If I am wrong, I will get the information from my friend and I will ensure that case will be turned around.

Mr. Guindon: The Futures program is a brand new initiative by the government. It could have built a French component into it right from the beginning. Given the recent government studies that indicate francophone young people have generally less education than their anglophone counterparts and therefore perhaps have the greatest need for these programs, why did the government not even attempt to make the programs more accessible to francophones?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for Cornwall is absolutely wrong in that regard. In the design of the Futures program, we have tried to ensure that the program is accessible not only to Franco-Ontarians but also to native Ontarians and others in the north. We have been opening up youth employment counselling centres, and our network of community colleges in that area has been expanding its delivery system for Futures. I am confident that a comprehensive delivery program will be available in the French language.

Mr. McClellan: Can the minister, or perhaps a more senior spokesman of the government, tell me whether this assembly will be equipped for simultaneous translation when we come back for the second session of this Parliament in April, so that francophone members of the assembly will be able to ask questions in the official language and the rest of us will have the opportunity to understand what they are saying?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, that is not a supplementary. It is a good question and it is being looked at by the standing committee on members' services.

11 a.m.

RADIOACTIVE LEAK

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The minister is aware of the 500-gallon-per-day leak at the spent fuel storage bay at Douglas Point. That fuel bay contains 22,000 bundles of highly radioactive uranium fuel. It has been two weeks now and Ontario Hydro has been unable to find the leak. It is considering moving those 22,000 bundles of fuel.

Can the minister tell us what ramifications this situation has for Ontario Hydro's spent fuel storage program? Has Hydro given him any idea as to what caused this rather extensive leak?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The information I have is that any radiation from the leak is well within the limits of exposure. If it were to get to the proportion that would require moving the bundles and storing them somewhere else, that would be done. I have assurance from Ontario Hydro that subsequent storage bins have been built in such a way that any escape from the chamber could be kept in a circular arrangement and pumped back in so that it never escapes from the containment.

I have been assured by Ontario Hydro that it is well within the limits of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and the Atomic Energy Control Board. It is within the acceptable limits right now, but is being monitored closely.

Mr. Charlton: The minister seems to be focusing exclusively on concern about the amount of radioactivity in the water. That is not the concern I am expressing to him. The minister should be aware, as I raised with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) a couple of weeks, these fuel storage bays are supposed to be impregnable. They are supposed to be capable of containing that fuel virtually for ever. That was the way Hydro put it in the select committee on energy last fall.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Charlton: Now, as a result of events we cannot identify, we have a major leak. Will the minister direct Hydro to do a full inspection of all the fuel bays, report to him on their condition and then table that report in the House?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course I will ask Hydro, at the behest, of the member, to do that. I have to correct him on one statement he made that I do not think I can accept: that it is a major leak. Hydro has assured us it is not. Until there is reason to believe otherwise, I have to accept what Hydro has told us. I am prepared to go forward and get the information the member requires. I am very anxious and interested to know what is leaving the site and getting into the environment.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Timbrell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I listened with interest to the response by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). It really started yesterday in question period. My point of order is simply that in checking yesterday's Hansard, I can see no place where the Premier took the question as notice. What he contributed today should have been a statement by the minister. I ask you to add a couple of minutes to question period because that was taking advantage of the–

Hon. Mr. Peterson: How about 10 minutes?

Mr. Timbrell: Ten minutes is fine. Thank you very much; we will accept 10 minutes. With respect, Mr. Speaker, I ask that some time be added to question period.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is a very good point of order. Everybody is in such a good mood this morning that I will add one minute for the answer to the question and one minute for the supplementary question. We will add two minutes to question period.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Miss Stephenson: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I am sure the minister is aware that hemophilus influenza virus B is a very common virus infection at this time of year and is particularly common in children. He will also be aware that HIB is a relatively serious infection for children. Since there is no known specific antimicrobial or antibiotic for such infections, there has been a great deal of activity in the development of vaccines, and two very good capsular polysaccharide vaccines have been developed that now are available for such vaccination purposes.

Will the minister report to the House what his direction has been, through the division of public health in Ontario, to the physicians of this province to help them to deal appropriately with this very serious disease and what he is doing about the distribution of vaccine?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable member was able to place that question and indicate that the minister would know all about this. Of course, she was able to do this with a straight face, knowing full well I had not heard before half the words she used in the question.

I do know that I will be able to get in touch with the public health people to advise the House of what action has been taken on this. I am sorry I was not able to follow all the words she used. If she will send a copy of her question over, I will get specific answers, because I could not even spell half the words she was supplying to me.

I will report back to the House. The member probably knew full well that this Minister of Health had not heard all of those words before. I will follow up on it as diligently as I can. I will be in touch with our officials to see what help they have been able to provide to physicians.

Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, may I request from you information about whether the minister is taking it as notice at the moment?

Mr. Speaker: I understood that he would take it as notice.

Miss Stephenson: That is not what he said, but I just want to make sure of that so that when he does reply it will be a part of the response.

I would tell the minister that the words I used–

Mr. Speaker: By way of supplementary, I hope.

Miss Stephenson: Yes, as supplementary–the words I used are very straightforward and very easily understood by all members of the health protection area in this province. The words "capsular polysaccharide vaccine" are relatively new, but the principles are old.

One of the things I want to impress upon the minister, by way of a question is, does he understand–

Mr. Speaker: Order. I added some time to the question period so more people could ask questions and get answers. I would appreciate it if you would really put the supplementary.

Miss Stephenson: Is the minister aware that HIB infection is a very serious infection for children between the ages of two and five, because a very considerable number of those children–about one in 2,000–acquire a very serious infection, and one in 200 of those develop meningitis?

Meningitis was totally lethal before we had antibiotics, but it–

Mr. Speaker: Order. Place the supplementary question, please.

Miss Stephenson: What is the minister going to do about protecting children between the ages of two and five in this province this year–because the peak period of this infection is February, March and April–in order to ensure that we minimize the intelligence disturbance and the neurological disorder.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member has asked the question.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I would like to put the member on notice that I will require her assistance in tutoring me with respect to some of the words. Her polyencapsulated questioning has provided me with some new areas of endeavour to study exactly what is being done.

I have undertaken to the House to report on what is a very serious question. I want to underline the fact that I am extremely concerned about the question of the people who may be–

[Laughter]

Hon. Mr. Elston: Sorry. I have been distracted by the laughter on the other side of the House.

I am concerned about the health of people between two and five. In my home town, a very good friend of ours had a child who did develop meningitis from infections similar to this. I do not know that it was the same one.

I will advise this House of what advice has been given by my public health officials. I will refer it back to the House and, in all seriousness, advise the people here of exactly what steps have been taken.

Miss Stephenson: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: I am delighted to offer my services to vaccinate the minister with the kind of knowledge that will be of assistance to him.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That could be a very serious point.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The minister wants to advise the House that it might take place under the guise of a full moon but at no other time.

11:10 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Philip: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Tomorrow, February 8, commemorates the day on which two leaders of the Iranian people, Moussa Khiabani and Ashraf Rajavi, were murdered by the Khomaini régime in Iran. Since June 20, 1981, more than 50,000 dissidents have been executed while 140,000 people have been subjected to the torture of Iranian prisons. Members of all three parties in this Legislature have signed a statement condemning the violation of human rights and the abuses of fundamental freedoms in Iran as outlined in the 1985 annual report of Amnesty International.

The standing committee on the Ombudsman presented a report to the House that passed unanimously. This report suggests processes whereby this Parliament can deal with abuses such as those in Iran. Since it has not yet been dealt with, I thought it appropriate that some mention of the Iranian situation be made today in this House to complement resolutions which are being passed in parliaments throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind all members that there is a report before the House and there may be time on future occasions for members to make statements for a 90-second period. However, the member has his comments on record.

PETITION

SUNDAY TRADING

Mr. Jackson: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor in Council signed by 153 constituents in the riding of Burlington South wishing to petition the Ontario government against any change to the Retail Business Holidays Act which would allow shopping at any Ontario retail store on Sundays.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Guindon from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the francophone affairs program be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Francophone affairs program, $2,067,100.

MOTIONS

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that notwithstanding any previous order, the House meet in the chamber at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that notwithstanding standing order 64(a), private members' public business not be taken up on Thursday, February 13, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSFERRAL OF BILL 71

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that Bill 71, An Act to protect the Public Health and Comfort and the Environment by Prohibiting and Controlling Smoking in Public Places, be transferred from the standing committee on social development to the standing committee on general government for disposal.

Motion agreed to.

REFERRAL OF RESOLUTION

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that pursuant to the resolution passed by the House on motion by Mr. Davis on Thursday, January 16, 1986, the subject matter of the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, R.S.O. 1980, c. 464, be referred to the standing committee on general government for review and report.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Brandt moved, seconded by Mr. Timbrell, first reading of Bill 104, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Brandt: Essentially the act calls for a requirement on the part of the municipality to pay for a judicial recount if the number of votes received by a municipal candidate is 500 or more but if the difference in the vote between two candidates is one per cent or less.

In the case of an election in which the winning candidate receives fewer than 500 votes, the requirement is that if the difference in the numbers of votes is five or less, again a recount is required. This takes into account both circumstances for a small municipality with a limited number of votes, and also for a larger municipality.

The purpose of introducing this kind of bill is to take the onus off a municipal candidate who in many instances has expended a great deal of money to run in an election only to find that the margin is an extremely narrow one, and then be faced with a requirement to expend substantial sums of money to determine the official outcome of the election. This would require the municipality to undertake that particular responsibility.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have tabled the answers to questions 196, 197 and 198 standing in Orders and Notices [see appendix, page 3930].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES (continued)

On vote 801, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Chairman: If my memory is correct, when we left off last night the minister was going to give replies and provide certain documents to the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) and the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce). Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Yes. The member for Kenora asked a question about new programs and initiatives introduced by this government. I am surprised he would ask that because, as he will recall, the Premier's office released a document just before Christmas called A New Direction, an analysis of Liberal government achievements. This was to be the member's holiday reading. I guess he did not have time to read it. I will send a copy over to him now with the initiatives affecting the north highlighted.

In response to the member for Kenora's question about the northern health transportation grant, the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) will continue to review the application of the program. I will refer the hardship cases to the Ministry of Health and I will personally discuss this with the minister.

11:20 a.m.

There was a question by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) about the Cargill phosphate deposit. He raised the possibility of using this resource to make fertilizer in northern Ontario.

I support the development of this valuable resource. My ministry is prepared to assist in whatever way it can. High transportation costs and depressed prices have not been favourable. However, the recently announced provincial program to reduce sulphur emissions may improve the prospect for development of this deposit. When I was in Ottawa this week I met with the consulting firm and we are looking at some propositions from it. I told its representatives to bring them to my deputy minister and the assistant deputy minister for mining, and then we will look into what they have in mind.

In answer to the member for Sudbury East about the Sudbury cancer facility, it is the Ministry of Health that can commit to construc-

tion, expected to begin in 1986-87, with the understanding that the cancer facility will have adequate funding, and we fully expect this project will go ahead as planned. Again, I told the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) my ministry will be monitoring this facility to make sure it is on time and in line with what we are led to believe.

With respect to the cancer facility's share, we are told it is there; if it is not, that is another ball game the Minister of Health and I will have to look into.

In response to the member for Rainy River, and we were discussing the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology programming, I agree there is a lack of non-resource-based manufacturing industry in northern Ontario. I always knew there was a very small secondary sector in the north, but I was surprised to discover when I became Minister of Northern Development and Mines that there are only seven non-resource-based manufacturing firms which have over 200 employees.

I can assure the member for Rainy River that I will be working closely with my cabinet colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) to strengthen this sector of the north's economy. As members know, the minister is a member of the cabinet committee on northern development and has a strong commitment to strengthen his ministry's programs in northern Ontario.

There was another question from the member for Rainy River about houseboats. My ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation all recognize problems caused by the uncontrolled profileration of houseboats on certain lakes. Houseboats are not licensed but compete in the same tourist market as land-based tourist operations requiring land-use permits issued on the basis of lake-fishing demography.

We agree means must be found to alleviate the stress on fishing caused by the houseboats. Houseboating is an increasingly popular tourist activity and a reasonable balance must be struck. Along with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, we are examining the issue.

In response to another question from the member for Rainy River, I too am concerned about the effects of transportation costs on northern industry. In my travels across northern Ontario this issue, along with Hydro rates, is the one most frequently raised by northern Ontario industry. We are dealing with this important issue in a number of ways.

As outlined in my estimates speech, I have begun, in co-operation with the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, a comprehensive review of the operation and mandate of ONTC. This review includes a look at ONTC rail and the highway freight rate structure. We will be doing what we can through ONTC to deal with this complex freight rate issue.

I know ONTC does not cover the northwest, but in some areas of the northwest there is quite a bit more competition in hauling freight than in the northeast. However, I recognize that Rainy River is on a highway that probably is in the same situation as Highway 11 in my area. The province will have to look at the situation. There are rumours about the feds introducing new regulations, and probably the province will have to follow those regulations. I do not know whether that will be a solution, but it was mentioned a few months ago and we will have to look into it. If the feds go along with all those regulations among the provinces, Ontario will have to look at it too because it will be part of a global transportation solution by the feds and we will have to abide by that law.

I notice that the transportation regulation started with the previous government in about 1974. Before that, Mr. Davis had tried a scheme to help transportation in the north that did not work. It was not the fault of the then Premier, but the result was that the grants that were given to the transport companies did not flow through to the taxpayers or the consumers.

There were discussions from 1975 to the year I left politics. We met here with Mr. Snow and came very close to passing a regulation law. There was pressure on all sides, my side, the New Democratic Party, the Conservatives and the Ontario Trucking Association. There was a lot of pressure on the three parties and the proposal was delayed and restudied. I will look into it and try to see which way to go and make a proposal in due time.

With the present discussion on freight rates and regulations, we have two Ministry of Transportation and Communications transportation consultants in place, in the northeast and the northwest, working directly with northern industry to assist in selecting the most effective mode and to negotiate the best freight rate deal. Industry is often able to realize major savings in transportation costs with the help of these

consultants. This is a very effective program and I strongly support its continuation.

In addition, my colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) is arranging measures to ease entry and increase competition in the trucking industry. We note a major commitment to highway construction, resources access roads and airports. All these measures will contribute significantly to achieving lower transportation costs in the north. As a result of our work, we hope to bring positive change in the future.

I will ask my ministry to monitor the cost of living in the far north and to check prices in the stores to see the difference between places with airports and those with no airports. Lately, I have been led to believe there is probably no difference. If there is no difference, that creates a problem. Those airports were built for safety in the case of fire or health reasons, but another reason was to reduce the cost of food to the consumer. Apparently, that may not be happening and we will have to check on it.

There was another question from the member for Rainy River about the northern helicopter pad construction program. Thirty-two helipads have been constructed to date and another 10 or so are expected to be built next year. The Kenora helipad is nearing completion. It will have a helicopter station and pad. This will significantly improve service in the Kenora and Lake of the Woods area.

11:30 a.m.

The Minister of Health is now developing an inventory for helicopter landing sites in the Kenora and Rainy River area. More helipads will be built in response to applications from local hospitals.

There was also a question from the member for Rainy River about hydro rates in Ontario being a disincentive to economic development. As he knows, and I spoke of it last night, Ontario is faced with stiff competition from Manitoba and Quebec on hydro rates. This government knows the importance of the cost of energy to industry. I believe the rate charges can be used as a tool to assist and stimulate economic development. This is the route I am trying to take with my ministry. We have been engaged in discussions with Hydro for three months to four months. We are meeting the new president at noon. After that, Hydro representatives will meet with my deputy minister and other people from my ministry who will state what we have in mind.

I will repeat what I said last night. I believe Hydro should be part of the development tool in northern Ontario. I recently discussed this with Tom Campbell, as I said, chairman of Ontario Hydro. He said he recognized that Ontario Hydro must assume a much stronger role in this area."

As well as talking to Hydro, I would like to remind my friend we are looking at new ways of electrification of our northern communities on the reserves in the north. The study with the Nishnawabe-Aski nation has been in progress since two or three weeks ago. The government is committed to do whatever is possible to assist the development of Ontario industry.

Mr. Bernier: Perhaps I can continue the discussion and point out to the minister that there are still a number of questions from my opening remarks that have not been answered by him.

I will put that aside for a moment and go to another issue. Before going to that, I was surprised to hear the minister stand up in his place and say he was shocked and surprised that I was not aware of the programs his government had brought forward. I remind him that last night, when I repeated his comments in the Legislature, he stood there in his place and could not find or even repeat to me what the programs were. He did not know himself.

I do not think it is correct for him to stand up and condemn me for not seeing and knowing what is in this document that is really a rehash of the question period. That is all it is. There are 48 pages of gobbledegook covering everything from government purchases of South African wine, AIDS initiative and the Toronto beaches cleanup to the Morgentaler court case. It is a whole list of questions and nonsense that was asked in the question period over the last two or three months.

There have been some markings related to achievements sent over to me on a copy of the Fahlgren report. That has been going on for seven or eight years, so it came to a conclusion it was going to come anyway.

I would say that the Ontario native economic support program for $3 million is one we could look at. The forest resources audit is going ahead. I do not know what the Metropolitan Toronto phone crisis line is. As for the French River Provincial Park, the ministry is renaming it here as a program. I do not think that is a program; really, that is not correct.

With respect to the countdown for acid rain. We know what that issue is. Then there are firefighting improvements. In the case of the Sudbury pilot project, 50 per cent paid for by the federal government. Then there is Science North. Those things were all in the works; They are not new programs.

I think the minister should watch what he is saying, because he is raising false hopes. He uses those words and tosses them around as if there are all kinds of new ideas and programs coming out of the government and they are not there. They are not in this document. If the minister has another list, I would appreciate him sending it over because I would be glad to see it.

I want to touch on the Ontario Northland Railway. First, I want to put into the record a letter my colleague the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague) left with me. It is a copy of a letter directed to the minister on February 3, 1986:

"I am writing this as a follow-up to my November 29, 1985 letter in which I asked if there are any statistics about ridership and traffic for the Chi-Cheemaun ferry's 1985 season. Not having heard back, I am concerned that perhaps my November 29 letter did not arrive at your office. I am interested in knowing whether there is a need for another Chi-Cheemaun to be built. If there is no need for another ferry between Tobermory and South Baymouth, is there any need for another ferry elsewhere in the province? Any information your office can provide with respect to the above would be greatly appreciated."

That was from the Collingwood Enterprise Bulletin, signed by George Czerny, the publisher. He has not had the courtesy of a reply to two letters. I have put the letter on the record and I hope the minister's staff will see a reply is sent to him.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The member should know how it works. He was there for seven years.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The minister will get the opportunity to reply.

Mr. Bernier: This letter was dated November 29. It has been two and a half months.

I have another comment from a northern Ontario paper in which the minister was interviewed. It says: "In an interview on Monday, the rookie minister hinted he would like to put it"–that is the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission–"in the hands of someone who knows transportation from the bottom up."

Is there a purge going on? Does the minister intend to change members of the commission? Does he intend to get rid of Wilf Spooner and that very competent board of directors of the ONTC? Perhaps he could respond to that at the appropriate time.

I want to touch on the ONTC and where it is going. I have been reading some very interesting comments. When this administration stepped down, the minister was very much aware of the $50-million or $60-million initiative we had initiated with respect to bilevel cars being purchased from the Urban Transportation Development Corp., the new GO Transit cars that were being completely outfitted at the North Bay shop. It employs about 800 to 850 people.

He is aware of the improvements to the Chi-Cheemaun ferry and the purchase of the two Dash-8 aircraft. He is also aware of that massive amount of money going into the ONTC for improvements to the transportation system which would make it one of the finest transportation systems on the North American continent.

We are concerned with the rumours we are hearing about the government divesting itself of the ONTC. We hear rumours it might want to sell off the communications aspect, which made $14 million profit last year. When that came up two or three years ago, an offer came from Northern Telecom for some $25 million. We had revenues of about $8 million to $9 million. We turned it down. I would like to hear from the minister what his thoughts are and what his government is planning with respect to the future of the ONTC. Is he going to spin it off, as the government plans to do with other crown corporations?

11:40 p.m.

Mr. Kruger has been delving into the ONTC operations very carefully. Where does the minister stand? At one time, he was part of the action group which the former member for Cochrane North chaired. He was quite vocal about the ONTC operations and keeping them in place and improved transportation throughout the northeast.

If the government were to divest itself of the ONTC, the minister is aware of what the consequences would be, since he remarked on it last night with respect to Cochrane Enterprises. He referred again this morning to the efforts to bring down the freight rates, but the reduction was not passed on to the consumers. He is very much aware of how the ONTC has been trying to improve transportation. From the thrust with which we left ONTC, at least it had some good direction. However, I am concerned with what I am hearing about the government divesting and selling off a portion or perhaps all of ONTC.

Also in his reply, perhaps the minister could explain to me what is going on with the workers at ONTC in employment security. I would like to know what is meant by supplemental layoff benefits on an indefinite basis in the event of a major layoff. I think this is a new thrust, but I

would like some explanation about what they are doing and trying to do to make sure the jobs are secure. I think it is a very admirable task, but if the minister could give us some further explanation in this regard it would be very helpful.

In my opinion, ONTC has a great future. I want to compliment the general manager, Peter Dyment, who has done a magnificent job of bringing that organization up to 1985-86 standards. He and his staff have to be complimented, as do the members of the commission itself.

I would implore the minister not to be too hasty politically, not to conduct a purge as the government did with the Minaki board of directors and replace them with all his Liberal friends. There are good people there. I say that with a great deal of sincerity.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: There is a variety of Liberals coming out of the woodwork up there.

Mr. Bernier: There are not too many in the woodwork. There are not many up there. They are as scarce as hens' teeth. One has to pull them out of the woodwork. They will not come out.

Could the minister bring us up to date with respect to the log hauling committee? I think he is aware of the problems we have, particularly in the northwest and in some parts of northeastern Ontario. Major pulp and paper companies are moving large amounts of pulpwood on our major highways, loading them crosswise on the semi-trailers, hauling anything from 23 to 27 cords and causing some fear among the travelling public, particularly since those loads are dumped on a pretty regular basis.

In my area just last week, in Kenora, a semi-truck was dumped over right downtown. Had a car been parked there or people been standing there, it would have killed them. I can relate a number of instances of travelling in my area when loads of pulpwood are lying beside the highways because of highway conditions, driving conditions or loads not being properly secured.

There is a committee established of which I am very much aware, chaired by the assistant deputy minister, Bill Lees, which has been trying to move ahead with the industry's co-operation. The efforts to date have been a small step forward. I think they are putting on double cables now. We established some check points. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has put on stricter surveillance and more inspections. However, there is still a fear in the public's perception as those huge loads of pulpwood come down the highways. They are still concerned.

The time may come in the not-too-distant future when we have to change that loading arrangement and load the logs lengthwise rather than crosswise. It may well mean some legislation will have to come from this government to force the logging companies, who I know are objecting to it because by loading differently they will be moving a smaller amount of wood per load and that increases the costs.

I was interested to hear of the judgement that came down in a court case in Thunder Bay recently. Four truckers had appealed a decision of the court that they were responsible for their loads. The judge upheld that decision and the drivers of the vehicles, as he pointed out, are certainly responsible for securing their loads, which is another step towards ensuring that the loads on the trucks that move along our highways are well secured. I would like the minister comment on where that issue stands, because there is a lot of interest in it in my area.

I note that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) made some changes with respect to the mining tax. He went from the escalated tax to the flat tax, which may have been the right step to take; we will see in the future. I understand there have been discussions with the mining industry with regard to the processing allowance and there has been no resolution of that issue. There have been ongoing discussions about that issue and there is some nervousness in the mining industry about processing allowances. I hope that he will bring us up to date on where that issue stands so that we can deal with it in a positive and straightforward way.

Also in the minister's response–and I will wind up here, in the mining section–I wonder if he can tell us what role he and his ministry will play in the convention upcoming prospectors and developers convention. Last year, we had a booth with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Now that the member is Minister of Northern Development and Mines, I hope he will have a very high profile at that convention. I hope he will be the guest speaker and bring some words of wisdom to that very enlightened group of developers and prospectors who meet here on an annual basis.

With those questions, I go back to the minister and ask him for some good response.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will start with the famous word of the "purge" of ONTC. It is funny. I looked at the list yesterday and there was no purge. The same people who were named by my predecessor the member for Kenora, are still there. One thing he did not do that he apparently

promised was to put native people on that board. Instead of doing that he gave the mayor of Hearst the position, because the mayor of Hearst in the last election, as members know, was an organizer for Mr. Piché. They made a place for him. The only thing wrong was that he should have put native people in that place. The mayor of Hearst is a friend of mine, but he had other places he could have gone, like to the hospital. He is very good at the hospital, with old age or elderly problems.

They are all there. As members know, sometimes someone will leave a commission at the end of March and maybe will be replaced by somebody else, but there is no purge.

I have ordered a comprehensive study of ONTC with the help of management. What he said about somebody–we are going to put that in the hands of people who know about transportation, I was talking–it is my thinking that probably if we are going to move, or orient ONTC as a development tool, I think probably the chairman should be full-time; that is my own feeling.

That is what I would say. If I do that, I would like to have a chairman who knows transportation. That has nothing to do with Mr. Dyment. As the member says, Mr. Dyment is a very competent man. He is the manager, but I was talking about a full-time chairman.

11:50 a.m.

There are no plans to divest ourselves of any significant part of ONTC, including Northern Ontario Telephone. We looked into it and nothing is going to be done; but as for the Dash-8, as the member knows, there will be no flight of the Dash-8 for a while because one is being retrofitted and the other is in bad shape apparently. I did not get the final report on this, but I am having talks with several private companies, including Air-Dale who has come forward with interesting ideas.

When one looks at that, I think it could be for the benefit of the northwest, and of the northeast too. This is where we are. This co-operative study is done because we want to provide better service and try to keep the subsidy at a level that can be afforded.

I know what the member for Kenora said about the telephone company. I know there are profits and that is probably the reason we have not heard anything about selling it.

In regard to log hauling, as the members know, my background makes me well aware of the concern about log-hauling safety and the need to make improvements. A futher study on an improved tie-down system is currently under way. A cost-sharing arrangement has been finalized with the Ontario forest industry and the Ontario manufacturing industry. I believe the contract was given to Forintek.

The member for Kenora said, and I have seen it myself, that there are more spills in the northwest than in the northeast. I do not know the reason. It is probably due to the way they are hauling. For the most part, in the northeast they haul tree lengths all the time. In the northwest, as the member for Kenora was saying, they are hauling crosswise. I think the whole problem is with the tie-down. If we cannot tie that down, we are in trouble and eventually the companies will have to look at other ways of hauling.

I discussed this with my friend the Minister for Transportation and Communications and Mr. Hobbs. Perhaps they will change to longer trailers to try to compensate, as they do in Quebec. If we ever have to move from crosswise to the other way, maybe it can be done with longer trailers or something such as that. I do not know, but I hope this study will be out soon to give us some new ideas.

On the mining tax, discussions are under way and the next meeting will be next week. We are having good input from the industry. As the members know, there are all kinds of articles about the new minister of mines in the newspapers. If you know Mr. James, Mr. Chairman, you know that he talks from the heart. He told me he never saw so much preparation in his life as with the government and mining. If one talks to the developers and the prospectors–I was told in Timmins by McKinnon, Larch and all those people that they never had such a leader before.

For a while, the previous minister had this under his hat too, but I was told there were places where they never saw a minister for 15 or 20 years. I am not blaming the previous minister, but that is what I am told by people involved in the industry and people who are working for the government too.

We are making progress. As I told the members last night, we are going to discuss with the native people about input with respect to the Mining Act. From reading the Fahlgren report, I think we have to look at that seriously. The forest and mining activities go further in the northwest than in my area in the northeast. We have to have some guidelines before we get people all over the place and then have court actions. We are going to do it properly. The discussions with the native people are going very well and we are making progress.

On the processing allowance and the whole question of administration of the act, which has been a sore point with the industry, we hope to resolve the tax issue very soon. We are committed to putting a bill before the House to take effect in the coming tax year. We are committed, not only to the mining industry but also to the prospectors and developers, to an act that will not complicate their lives too much and will be simpler so that ordinary people can look for a mine or do staking.

At the same time, we are committed to try to encourage the mining industry to come to Ontario and try to find other mines or create other activities.

We know that the competition from Quebec, New Brunswick and other provinces is very severe. We are going to try in the middle of all this not to give all the money away. Look at Quebec's deficit. It is very high and ours is not too bad. We have to keep our dollar in mind.

Do not forget that we have the Ontario mineral exploration program, and OMEP is a very popular program. It was started by the previous government, but it was restricted. We are going to try to open up OMEP and change the rules of reporting to give a chance to small, junior mines so that, if they do not have the money at the first of the year, perhaps they will get their money later in the year and they will still qualify. We are looking at some new direction on this. My ministry is working on it with the industry to try to make OMEP more palatable to every industry and individual.

As was mentioned, at the Prospectors and Developers Association meeting we will have two major display areas as well as a suite in which to meet delegates. There will also be a tea for wives. As members know, my wife will be a guest speaker at this. She will not replace me, because I have already made about 10 or 15 speeches to the mining people, the investors and the prospectors. Maybe it is time they listened to my wife. The display that the provincial government presents will be even bigger and better than last year's.

On the letter regarding Chi-Cheemaun, we did reply late in January. It all answers Mr. Czerny's question. If not, I invite him to seek more data, which we will be pleased to provide to him.

Mr. Bernier: I would like to get a clarification on the Dash-8 accident in Sault Ste. Marie a week ago. My colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) asked for a full report. Am I right in assuming that this report is not available at this time?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It is still in the hands of the federal investigator. He does not have a report yet. The only thing we know is that it is very badly damaged but is apparently repairable. It will take two or three months to repair.

Mr. Bernier: Three months?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Two or three months if de Havilland puts all its effort into it.

Mr. Bernier: I point out to the minister that I viewed the scene of the accident on Monday last when I came down to Toronto and I saw the aircraft sitting at the end of the runway. It was sad to see a $7- or $8-million brand-new aircraft sitting there. I am looking forward to the report of the investigators.

To get back to the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, I mentioned in my remarks earlier the improvements to the transportation system. Where do we stand with regard to the 12 or 13 bilevel cars that we were going to purchase from the Urban Transportation Development Corp.? It was going to be a piggyback on the Via Rail order, and I believe it was moving ahead. We did get the GO cars up to North Bay. Those are being refurbished, as I understand it, and will be used on the Polar Bear Express this summer, I hope. Is it the minister's intention to move ahead with bilevels, or does he intend to use those GO Transit cars on the Cochrane-Toronto run?

12 noon

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: On the bilevels, as the member knows, the bid apparently came out at $3.7 million and Via was expecting $2.5 million, so there is still nothing on this one. I was talking with Peter Dyment a week ago, as well as about a month before. We gave our proposal to Via on the bilevels. I think it was during the time of the member for Kenora. We did not receive anything on this. They went ahead and asked for a quotation from the UTDC and Bombardier, but we did not receive anything from them on whatever was proposed to them last winter.

I read that about a month ago. I think some changes had to be made to some cars, but the $3.7 million would not cover the cars today. The cost would be higher. Still, they did not even answer the member when he made his proposal. I told Mr. Dyment to try to meet with the people from Via to see what was going on. Then I read in the newspaper that they were still negotiating with Bombardier and the UTDC to bring the price down.

The repairs to the GO trains are going pretty well. There are some in Cochrane and North

Bay. We will see what we are going to do in the next few weeks or month, if we cannot buy the other one. I told Mr. Dyment we will have to look at other kinds of trains because we cannot use the bilevels. Like the member for Kenora, I want the people of the north to have the best transportation, but I think that will be beyond our means.

I told Mr. Dyment that maybe we should start to negotiate with Via parallel to the bilevels. I think the service from Cochrane to Kapuskasing should be run by one operator, with the same suit and the same smile. Right now we are changing crews. My feeling is, when one takes the train, the schedule is arranged to save time down the line. If one looks into why they leave at 9:30 at night I am sure it is because of that. If we arrive somewhere at 10 in the morning, the shift has started.

There is no reason why we should leave at 9:30 at night. There is probably no reason why we should leave at six. We could leave at eight o'clock from the north. We have to cut the schedule down if we want to attract people to go by train to the north. With all the airplanes since the member for Kenora left the scene and moved to the other side, there is more competition in our area of Cochrane and they work both services. The train service and norOntair are taking a beating. Cochrane would disappear from there as norOntair. Kap is taking a beating and the train is taking a beating too. There is some service under $166 from Toronto to Kapuskasing or Cochrane.

Mr. Bernier: On that point, I know it is not my place to give the minister advice, but if he is losing ridership on the norOntair operation, when I had his responsibility I was beginning to lean on the marketing division of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. I do not know if he is satisfied with their marketing and advertising programs, but I think they have to be more aggressive, and I say that sincerely.

I do not think they can just advertise in North Bay. There is more to norOntair and to ONTC just in the North Bay basin. They have to be more aggressive; they have to be able to compete with the private sector. With a more aggressive marketing program they could do that, so I will leave that comment with the minister.

I want to relate to another subject. I note with interest the minister's comments with respect to the use of the air ambulance, particularly in relation to the movement of patients who come to Toronto on the air ambulance service and then have to find their own way back to their respective communities. The minister was a little upset about that and is doing everything in his power to make greater use of the air ambulance both ways.

I want to relate to the minister some problems we had when we were in his position. They were not with the air ambulance system. They were with the hospital administrators here in Toronto. Under the present plan, that air ambulance can move a patient from hospital to hospital. The attitude down here is the problem. If the administrators sent that patient back to the hospital in Kapuskasing or in Timmins, they would use the return flight. It is there, but it is the attitude of the people down here that is the problem. The minister should lean on those people because there is an excellent service available. There is a way of moving them back and forth, but it is hospital to hospital. They just have to be leaned on to use this service that is really excellent for all of us who live in northern Ontario.

I want to move now to some of the questions I asked previously. Perhaps we can go through them one by one. I asked the minister if he could provide me with some costs with respect to the two name changes that came to his ministry in the past eight months: first, the Ministry of Northern Affairs and Mines and then Northern Development and Mines. I would be interested to know–I am sure the public would like to know–what the costs were to change the signs, the stationery, the phone numbers and all the things that go with the changes the minister has incorporated. If he can give us some figures on that, it will be most helpful.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The staff will look into that, and I will report to the honourable member. He must know. He changed signs too, from blue to yellow to red and to green. It is not the name change that–

Mr. Bernier: The colour always remained the same, but with the accord, the minister must have some difficulty between green and red. I do not know what colour he is using.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Green. That is a nice colour.

Mr. Bernier: Is he going to use the green?

If I can go on to the next question that was not answered, I made reference to the accord the government has with the socialists. It refers to the establishment of an inquiry into gas price differentials between the north and the south. Can the minister bring us up to date on that part of the accord and where it lies? The minister will be very familiar with the fact that the price of gasoline is of very serious concern to all of us who live in northern Ontario.

In Red Lake, it is now more than 60 cents a litre. There is a major highway into Red Lake, and they are most upset with this high pricing, although I will admit the price is not that far off in and around Dryden and in other parts on the Trans-Canada Highway. It is 53 cents or 54 cents a litre. Still, there is a difference between the north and the south. I just wonder where that issue stands.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It makes me laugh when the member discusses our accord with the socialists. When I look at the laws the previous government passed, a lot of them were socialist too.

In Ontario we are the people in the centre. This time the Liberals are in the centre, with my friends over here, and we are going to keep it. He should not worry.

I want to go back to the Isbister report. I recall that a few years ago, the previous government had a report on fuel. I do not know what it did with it. I was surprised. I was in politics at that time, as the mayor of Hearst. I received a copy, and there were some good recommendations in it, but they were never implemented.

There was a rumour that something would be done north of the French River, but there was a problem. Right now, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) has this study in his hand and it will be out shortly, maybe by the end of next week.

After that, my ministry will look into it and, with the help of the Ministry of Energy, we will have some public hearings in the north again. We want to report to the Treasurer before the next budget. We are looking at it seriously.

12:10 p.m.

As members know, in my area and in other remote areas, we are paying very high prices. There has been a problem for a long time. It was studied but there was no action taken except on our licences, then it went up a little under some budget a few years ago, but I do not think that is the solution. There is a problem in the north with the 18 regions where they pay more than other regions. It is a complex thing we have to look at.

North of the French River they will pay less taxes. It is a buffer zone. They tried that in Quebec then they had to put it 50 miles away. I think we will have to do something else and look at the reserves of the north, the real north, the other north and the south north. It is a different area. In Sault Ste. Marie they are paying a higher price for gas and fuel than in Blind River. Something is wrong. If you are on a big highway around Sault Ste. Marie, you should have about the same price as Dryden and I know that in Hudson and Sioux Lookout that is a problem. We are going to try to do something about it.

Mr. Bernier: If I may respond to the minister's comments, with respect to our own policies when we were in office, I would remind him we did not prostitute ourselves with the socialists to get into government and to do the things we wanted to do. I just want to remind the minister of that.

Mr. Davis: In bed together.

Mr. Bernier: In bed together and the minister will regret the day, as a free enterpriser, that he went to bed with those people. I want to be around when I hear the minister, who is a free enterpriser, believe me, he is a hard worker and he knows what it is to make a buck. He does not live off the public trough, I know that, and somewhere down the road he will want to shed that socialist cloak. He will want to get rid of it and do his own thing for northern Ontario, and I say that to the minister sincerely.

To touch on another issue that is very important to northern Ontario, the tourist industry. As we have heard on many occasions, this industry could be the number one industry in northern Ontario by the year 2000. I admit I get a little nervous. I am disappointed that the budget of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has been reduced by eight per cent. I think some money was put back in to bring the reduction down to four per cent, but there is a reduction in that budget.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs was actively involved in supporting tourism right across northern Ontario. We attended the sports shows in Toronto. We had staff and people in other major sports shows. I was disappointed that the minister did not see fit to go to one of those major shows in Minneapolis or Milwaukee or Chicago to be with the hundreds of tourist operators and to give them moral support. If they gave new direction or new ideas, then I think it is incumbent upon him to tell those operators and what better place to do it than at one of the major sports shows.

It is the lack of commitment by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) to the tourist industry that really concerns me. There seems to be a change of heart, a change of direction. I would hope there is not a change of direction by this ministry because I think there is a sensitivity, a concern and a feel for tourism in northern Ontario.

However, a tourism seminar has been hoisted or wiped out, and it was to have been a major thrust by the ministry to bring together a new

tourist strategy because we are seeing a decline in the number of entries into Canada at border-crossing points. Those figures are going down every year. We have to make some changes. We have to get new direction. We have to have a new strategy.

I propose that we have a major tourism conference or seminar somewhere in northern Ontario to bring together all of those people on which the tourist industry impinges, be they tour operators, hotel operators, but not just tourist operators per se. Filling station operators, garage operators, anybody who is affected in some way by tourism should have been at that conference and given of their experiences and advice. That conference would have plugged into a similar national one Tom McMillan, the Minister of Tourism, had put together on a national basis. The scheme was very apropos. We had taken it from a low regional area of this province, put together a strategy and then plugged into the national strategy.

It certainly made sense. For that reason alone I was very disappointed the minister saw fit to cancel this seminar. The tourist industry was aware and excited about it. If memory serves me correctly, a steering committee was established to put the package together. Consultants had been engaged and it was moving ahead quite rapidly.

Does the minister have new ideas or is he going to support his colleague the Minister of Tourism and Recreation? Does he have specific figures and facts and some dollar amounts we can look at to make sure industry is protected and improved upon with the resources we have in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Over the last three months, I have made three trips to the north with my friend the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I never heard that money for northern Ontario will be cut. What I heard from him is that we are going to engage ourselves in new year-round activities in northern Ontario, not only sports shows but other attractions that will bring in people. From now on, tourism will be not only for people who fish or hunt. It will be a family affair in northern Ontario and we need new reflections.

It is one thing the member should have been looking at over the past 10 years. His party was looking at James Bay. We go up there and still do not see James Bay. We went to see the history of Moosonee and Moose Factory. We went there and got no history of Moose Factory. Not too far from there, people went to see whales. They even have a polar bear in Moosonee, called the Polar Bear Express.

We are looking in new directions and at Moosonee, Moose Factory and Port Albany we are going to put big money into trying to develop attractions so people who visit will be able to say, "At least I saw James Bay." That is our commitment and there is a share of that $200 million for tourism.

As to the member's friends who applied lately, they got their money. It will give new direction not only to people who want to go there but also people who want to promote in Quebec and the United States.

Second, we are going to have seminars starting soon in all of northern Ontario to get some of the feedback about which the member was talking. I could not sell this thing because I had just arrived here and we had to review everything at that time. I want to reiterate to my friend the member for Kenora that we are going to organize a big seminar in the near future.

As he knows, in all my speeches I write, I take tourism very seriously. I am building the bridge in the north between what exists today and what is coming in the future to help us through the disastrous years of unemployment through which we are passing. I want tourists to be there after these years as well.

We have good tourism in my area to the east and in the northwest they are a bit more fortunate than we are. In the east the tourist industry disappeared nearly completely in the late 1960s and 1970s, due to the fact people in the east were making too much money someplace else and forgot tourists. Today, what makes me feel good is that everybody is talking about tourism in the northeast and northwest. I think together we could have a new era of tourism, not only for Americans but also people in Canada and Ontario who want to visit the north with their families.

12:20 p.m.

We will have to look into developing more ski resorts, not just at Thunder Bay. There are other areas we could develop. We have to develop routes so that if I took Highway 17 and went that way, there would be more than one museum. We should work on the museums and the histories of each little town, and then we have to look at other attractions.

This is where the development councils will come to be useful. The first thing I am going to ask from them is to work on tourism and try to give me a tourism strategy. I will try to do that this year. In regard to the routes, we should not repeat ourselves. If there is a zoo in Earlton, there

should not be a zoo in Kirkland Lake. It will be up to those committees to decide and say, "We will have one here, one there," etc., and make the rules to space them out.

An example is that Belanger guy in Earlton, who bought the zoo down the road. This year, 29,703 people went to that zoo in Earlton, and it rained all summer. So imagine next year. He had more people going to that zoo than went on the Polar Bear Express. I repeat, if we do not do something pretty soon in Moosonee and Moose Factory, there will soon be no more Polar Bear Bear Express. People will not go any more.

We signed a contract with a consultant about a week ago for that area of the James Bay coast. Together with the native people and the people in Moosonee, we will try to get this together in the near future. At Moose Factory, Mr. Munro Linkletter is working on a program for a native museum with all the history. Thus, in summertime, we will have theatre with the native dances at noon when the train arrives.

If we are going to give grants, as I said to my colleague here yesterday, when we go to Management Board from now, if I give grants to natives or to other places to start a store or sell things, they must be built in the north. If they are not built in the north but in Japan, they will not get that money. I will go and get it back; that is for sure. From now on, if they are going to sell Indian crafts in the north, the crafts should be produced in the north. If they are not, they will have to go somewhere else. I will not give them the money.

There is pottery made in the north and pottery made in Ontario. I do not want any Japanese. I do not have anything against the Japanese, but the people are mad about that now. I have received letters and letters about this and it has got to end. I may have to enforce it with some money, for example, saying, "If you do that, I will give you more money. If you do not, I will not give you money."

That is the way we are going to go. That is the direction I want to take, and with the help of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, I can assure the member for Kenora that we will not let northern Ontario down on this one. We will do our utmost. I am committed to that, and I will do everything I can to put tourism back where it was in the 1960s in the northeast, and again, to get better tourism areas.

Last night I discussed the matter of lots on the lakes, to try to create some industry for towns such as Chapleau and Ignace. If they were allowed to sell more lots on the lakes close to those towns, people from the south could buy them and move. Tourism was not only meant to go to Barrie or Muskoka. We have lots of Muskokas to be developed in the north.

Mr. Bernier: I am most pleased to hear the minister support the tourist industry so strenuously. I am pleased to hear him relate to all parts of northern Ontario, from Moosonee to Kenora to Sault Ste. Marie and Parry Sound, and to have a handle on the needs of that area.

I am most pleased to hear he is going ahead with the seminars. That is a major step forward. There are new ideas and new thrusts and directions that have to come forward. I will certainly watch with a great deal of interest as he moves forward.

I cannot help but agree with his comment with regard to Moosonee and the Polar Bear Express. Previously, we funded the museum at Moose Factory. I hope he will continue that and expand on it and do other things that are really needed. There is no doubt in my mind that some of those people who used the Polar Bear Express were coming back a little disappointed that there was not much there to see or do. I commend the minister for his interest and concern about that very important industry.

Since we are dealing with the estimates, the actual expenditures of this ministry, I wonder if he could give us the exact dollar figure he intends to spend on tourism in the fiscal year that will wind up on March 31 of this year.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will bring back some figures. We are using some money from the northern Ontario regional development program and the northern community economic development program.

Mr. Bernier: With great respect, this is the examination of the expenditures of this ministry. I direct my remarks to the deputy minister. Surely he could have those figures at his fingertips and make them available to us. To bring them back in the final hours of the estimates committee meeting is wrong. I do not think this has happened in previous years. When we ask for a figure, it is fair that we should be given a figure and not be sloughed and told we will get it some other time. I do not think that is correct. It is wrong. It is not satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We are doing the job, so the money is there. There is nothing wrong with it.

Mr. Bernier: I just hope the press picks this up, because it is a hell of a way to run a railroad, I can tell the minister that. We are looking at the

estimates and we cannot get any figures. Why sit here and talk about dollars and cents, and the $160 million that the minister has to spend, when he will not tell us what he is going to spend it on? It is a waste of time. While I appreciate the minister's interest and his broad general concern, we should have some dollar figures.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Chairman, we have to excuse ourselves. We are rookies at this job. We are not all pros.

I want to assure the member that the money is there that those people are so glad about. At least if this money is distributed equally for each part of Ontario, it is balanced out. That is what I am getting at.

Mr. Bernier: It is all right to talk that way–

Mr. Chairman: Order. Will one of you please have the floor and stand up and the other sit down and not both be standing up or sitting down at the same time? The minister appears to have the floor at this point.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Okay. We will come back on Monday and pull out some figures on tourism, mining and all this. As the member knows, we just did some changing in–

Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Chairman, I would ask you to notice that there is not a quorum.

The chairman ordered the bells rung.

12:34 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: A quorum is now present.

Mr. Bernier: I would like to go on, Mr. Chairman, but there is nobody in the minister's seat. There is no one there.

Mr. Chairman: If the minister is in the east lobby, perhaps he will hear us and know that we are waiting for him to resume his seat to carry on with the estimates.

Mr. Bernier: I move that the committee rise and report.

On motion by Mr. Bernier, the committee of supply reported progress.

Mr. McClellan: Can somebody explain to me why we are doing this?

The Deputy Speaker: It is because a motion was placed and carried that the House rise and report.

The House adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

ROAD SALT

164. Mr. Andrewes: Would the Minister of Transportation and Communications detail research that his ministry has conducted on the use of road salt? Would the minister provide details of monitoring programs, particularly in environmentally senstitive areas, experimental use of barriers to limit drift of salt sprays, tests with alternative materials and other details that might be relevant to this issue? Would the minister provide details of budget commitments to this area for the past five years, and planned commitments for 1986-87? [Tabled January 10, 1986]

See sessional paper 334.

AUTOMOBILE TELEPHONES

193. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Government Services provide the following information on automobile telephones: 1. How many government vehicles have telephones? 2. Please list the names of all cabinet ministers and deputy ministers who have telephones in their vehicles. 3. Please list the names of any employees who use a government vehicle that is telephone equipped. 4. What is the total cost to the province to have telephones in automobiles? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

Hon. Ms. Caplan: The Ministry of Government Services is requested from time to time to provide consulting and acquisition assistance on the matter of mobile telephone services. This assistance is provided as an optional service; therefore, MGS does not maintain a central record on the total number of radio telephones and their deployment. Each ministry controls its own inventory.

Answers to specific questions are as follows:

1. The Ministry of Government Services records indicate a total of 27 radio-telephone units for members of the Legislature, deputy ministers and other government departments.

2.

Ministry	Minister	Deputy Minister
Agriculture and Food	Hon. Mr. Riddell	
Attorney General	Hon. Mr. Scott	
Colleges and Universities	Hon. Mr. Sorbara	
Citizenship and Culture	*Hon. Mr. Ruprecht	
Deputy House Leader	Ms. E. J. Smith	
Environment	Hon. Mr. Bradley	R. McLeod
Government Services	Hon. Ms. Caplan	
Health	Hon. Mr. Elston	
Industry, Trade and Technology	Hon. Mr. O'Neil	
Tourism and Recreation	Hon. Mr. Eakins	
Transportation and Communications	Hon. Mr. Fulton	

*Minister without Portfolio

3. MGS records indicate only the number of units for the ministry. Individual employees to whom the units are assigned are not named. Our records show 15 units are in use as listed below:

Ministry	Unit	No. of Mobile Telephone Units
Agriculture and Food	Horticultural Research Inst.	1
Community and Social Services	Operations	1
Correctional Services	Operations	1
Government Services	Computer and telecommunications	8
Health	Ambulance services	1
Environment	Air resources	2
Environment	Laboratory services	1

4. The capital cost for these 27 known units is $121,500. This represents the cost of equipment only. Usage costs are additional.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

196. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Housing table in this House the names of the landlords who are prepared to expand their rental unit stock for northwestern Ontario under the new programs announced on December 16, 1985? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

Hon. Mr. Curling: This question cannot fully be addressed at this time. On December 16, 1985, my ministry provided an announcement of new housing programs. The ministry is now working promptly to complete the operational details of these new programs, thereby allowing landlrods in northwestern Ontario to make formal applications to expand their rental stock. At this time, a sizeable number of landlords have already made inquiries about the programs.

A program to stimulate the supply of modest rental units for families is being advertised in selected areas across the province on January 29, 1986, and it is anticipated that additional landlords in northwestern Ontario will express an interest in this program. It is hoped that I will have a list of northwestern Ontario landlords who have received funding approval available for the Legislature by April 15.

197. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Housing please tell this House which developers in northern Ontario agreed to particiate in his government's programs to construct the housing units that are required in the northwest? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

Hon. Mr. Curling: My ministry will soon be in a position to receive applications for the new program initiatives announced by my ministry on December 16, 1985. To date, the developers of northwestern Ontario have shown a keen interest in the new programs.

A program to stimulate the supply of modest rental units for families is being advertised in selected communities in Ontario on January 29, 1986, and it is anticipated that additional developers in northwestern Ontario will express an interest in this program.

A list of developers who have received funding approval will be provided to the Legislature, hopefully by April 15. At that time we should have a formal indication of the northwestern Ontario developers interested in participating in the new programs.

198. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Housing table in this House the names of the landlords and developers that he and his ministry met with and discussed the new housing policies in northwestern Ontario? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

Hon. Mr. Curling: In the previous two questions, 196 and 197, my ministry was not in a position to announce the landlords and developers who will be participating in the new programs. As previously mentioned, the landlords and developers in northwestern Ontario have shown a keen interest in the new program initiatives. The northwestern regional office of the Ministry of Housing in Thunder Bay has discussed by telephone and in person the new housing initiatives with 31 landlords and developers in 10 communities in northwestern Ontario. Because of the possible sensitive nature of this list, it is not possible to release the names of these companies and individuals. These inquiries and discussions were carried out in confidence, and it would not be appropriate to release their names without their prior approval.

As well, my ministry consulted with a number of associations representing landlords and developers from across the province of Ontario, such as the Mulciple Dwellings Standards Association and the Ontario Home Builders Association.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC

Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer **Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC**

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)
Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)
Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)
Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)
Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)
McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
McKessock, R. (Grey L)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)
Miller, F. S. (Muskoka PC)
Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Carleton East L)

Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)

Partington, P. (Brock PC)

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)

Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)

Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)

Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)

Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)

Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)

South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)

Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)

Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (London North L)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue

Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education

Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment

Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology

Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour

Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs

Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing

Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communication

Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development

Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio
Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Cordiano, J., assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Downsview L)
Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer (Waterloo North L)
Ferraro, R. E., assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wellington South L)
Haggerty, R., assistant to the Minister of Government Services (Erie L)
Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Humber L)
Mancini, R., assistant to the Premier (Essex South L)
McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Energy (Kent-Elgin L)
McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)
Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)
Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)
Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)
Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)
Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)
Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Brandt; vice-chairman, Ms. Fish; members, Messrs. Callahan, D. R. Cooke, Ms. Gigantes, Messrs. Knight, O'Connor, Partington, Polsinelli, Villeneuve and Warner; clerk, F. Carrozza.

General government: chairman, Mr. McCague; vice-chairman, Mr. Dean; members, Messrs. Epp, Guindon, Hennessy, McKessock, Pouliot, Ms. E. J. Smith, Messrs. Swart, Ward and Wiseman; clerk, T. Decker.

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Ombudsman: chairman, Mr. McNeil; vice-chairman, Sheppard; members, Messrs. Baetz, Bossy, Hayes, Henderson, Morin, Newman, Philip, Pierce and Shymko; clerk, T. Decker.

Procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions: chairman, Mr. Breaugh; vice-chairman, Mr. Mancini; members, Messrs. Bossy, Martel, McCaffrey, Morin, Newman, Sterling, Treleaven, Turner and Warner; clerk, S. Forsyth; assistant clerk, T. Decker.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. Harris; vice-chairman, Mr. Runciman; members, Messrs. Ashe, Cordiano, Epp, Ferraro, Gillies, Leluk, Philip, D. W. Smith and Wildman; clerk, F. Carrozza.

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Resources development: chairman, Mr. Laughren; vice-chairman, Mr. Ramsay; members, Messrs. Gordon, Hayes, Mancini, McGuigan, Pierce, D. W. Smith, South, Stevenson and Taylor; clerk, D. Arnott.

Social development: chairman, Mr. R. F. Johnston; vice-chairman, Mr. Allen; members, Messrs. Bernier, Davis, Henderson, Jackson, G. I. Miller, Offer, Reville, Reycraft and Miss Stephenson; clerk, L. Mellor; assistant clerk, D. Deller.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Economic affairs: chairman, Mr. D. R. Cooke; vice-chairman, Mr. McGuigan; members, Messrs. Andrewes, Barlow, Cordiano, Ferraro, Hennessy, Knight, Mackenzie, McFadden and Morin-Strom ; clerk, D. Arnott.

Energy: chairman, Mr. Andrewes; members, Messrs. Ashe, Charlton, Cureatz, Gordon, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Haggerty, Jackson, McGuigan, Sargent and Ward; clerk, F. Carrozza.

Environment: chairman, Mr. Knight; members, Messrs. Baetz, Charlton, Ms. Fish, Mr. Gillies, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Poirier, Reycraft, Sargent, Shymko and South; clerk, T. Decker.

Health: chairman, Mr. Callahan; members, Messrs. D. S. Cooke, Cousens, Ms. Gigantes, Messrs. Henderson, Mancini, Partington, Pope, D. W. Smith, Miss Stephenson and Mr. Ward; clerk, D. Deller.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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No. 113

Government Publications

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Official Report of Debates
Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, February 10, 1986
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 10, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Ms. Caplan: I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates of certain additional sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1986, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly, signed February 10, 1986, His Honour Lincoln Alexander.

ORAL QUESTIONS

FUTURES PROGRAM

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of Skills Development. He will recall that during the election campaign his party spoke at length about creating jobs for young people; in fact, something about a job for every young person in Ontario. Last October, he announced the Futures program which was to create jobs for 56,000 hard-to-employ youth in this province by the end of March. Yet last week he had to admit in estimates that it has created only 6,900 jobs over three months; just over 2,000 jobs a month.

Would he like to come clean and tell us today how many of the 56,000 promised jobs will be created by the end of March?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: One of the problems of the Leader of the Opposition is that he did not read the statement I made when I announced the Futures program. I think I am quoting it almost exactly when I say that at the time I introduced the program I said that in this fiscal year $133 million will be devoted towards the creation of about 56,000 jobs for young people. We are on that target and we believe that by the end of this fiscal year that many jobs will have been created.

Mr. Grossman: As the minister tries to shift the goalposts from what he originally announced, let us go to how much money he has spent on the Futures program, which he will not deny has created fewer than 7,000 jobs. However, he is spending $600,000 on the Futures advertising campaign. If he continues to create jobs in Futures at the same rate as he has been creating them so far, he will have spent more on advertising for each job he creates than he is spending in wages for the young people who do get jobs.

Will the minister explain to the House how he can justify spending $600,000 on advertising to create fewer than 7,000 jobs?

Mr. Rae: The minister should compare the advertising costs of his program with those of the previous program.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not have those figures but I will get them for the next question.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) wants to harp on numbers in this business. The fact is that the advertising program we have launched is not for a program that we intend to carry on for a month, two months or four months. We are not taking the tack the Leader of the Opposition took when he was responsible for these sorts of things, which was to bring in a new program whenever it was convenient. We have made a long-term commitment to the Futures program. The advertising was designed to tell the people of the province, particularly the young people, about the program. That is precisely what it has done.

I make no apologies for the cost of advertising. The fact is that we anticipate next year our youth employment program, to which the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has dedicated some $200 million, will touch some 125,000 young people. Those figures speak for themselves.

Mr. Grossman: The minister may not want to play numbers games, but it is quite possible the young people of this province, who are seeing $600,000 go to advertising to get slightly more than 6,000 jobs, may be interested in numbers, such as the number of unemployed who remain out there while the minister is throwing money at advertising.

Let me ask the minister a question that was raised with him by my colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr. Guindon) with regard to the question of francophone services within the Futures program.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Do not talk about francophone rights.

Mr. Grossman: The Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) should listen to it. He could learn something, although I know he knows it all.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Do not talk about francophones. That is a new speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary, please.

Mr. Grossman: In committee on Friday the minister said, "There is certainly not a specific allocation for francophone services." Given the crisis facing these particular young people, my simple question is, why does the minister not have a specific allocation for francophone services for young people in this province?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just to clean up on the second supplementary, the suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition that we are spending $600,000 for 6,000 jobs is like saying General Motors, in the first three months of production of a new car, is spending $2 million to sell 1,000 cars. The proposition is just ridiculous.

On the question of francophone services, there is no specific allocation because the program is delivered by community colleges and youth employment counselling centres throughout the province. Community colleges in areas that are serving a Franco-Ontarian constituency deliver the program in French. Youth employment counselling centres that have a Franco-Ontarian constituency, such as the ones in Welland, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, deliver the program in French.

No specific allocation is needed in this case. It is a matter of the delivery agent identifying the need and ensuring that the program it delivers is delivered equitably and on the same basis to the anglophone community as to the francophone community. We are doing a very good job of doing it.

Mr. Grossman: I thank the minister for acknowledging the very fine youth employment counselling centres put in by the previous government. They are doing a fine job; the minister is doing nothing.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What is the member talking about? We are running it.

Mr. Stevenson: In spite of that, they are still doing well.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:10 p.m.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Premier. In April 1982, during the fee negotiations with the doctors, the then Leader of the Opposition asked me the following question in my capacity as Minister of Health: "They"–the doctors–"are not happy with the negotiating process. The minister is not happy with it. Why is the minister not looking at alternative methods of solving these kinds of disputes which affect every single person in Ontario?" That was the member's question to me.

I want simply to repeat the same question to the Premier today, because of the crisis he now faces, which he created, with the doctors of this province.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I gather the question is, why are we not looking at alternative methods of settling the fee disputes? I say to the member that there is a constructive suggestion here. He said I should give them 14 per cent.

Mr. McClellan: Give them $1 billion, as somebody said.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Or $1 billion, the member says. We are still at this moment living under the terms negotiated by the former Health minister, now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman). We are still operating under that agreement. There is a variety of opinion on that one, then and now.

Let me say I am prepared to sit down with the doctors at any time with respect to the dispute-solving mechanism. If they have ideas on how fee disputes in the future can be solved, then we are happy to talk to them; no problem.

Mr. Grossman: I say to the Premier, this issue is too important to try to take the facile answer to the question, because my question did not relate to fee disputes, as he well knows. It related to extra billing because, as I said in my question, it is with regard to the problem and crisis he now faces, which he has created. Instead of dealing with the question, he chose to use the time to move off facilely into a question I did not ask.

To help the Premier attempt to answer the question as to why he will not negotiate with the doctors, as he suggested I do–negotiate quietly with them to try to sort out the problem–let me point out that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) said on the weekend in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record that he "would not be fundamentally opposed to a proposal that the government might impose only a partial ban on extra billing."

Would the Premier like to indicate today whether he now supports or rejects the suggestion put forward by his colleagues the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson), the Minister of

Community and Social Services, the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp)–who is also quoted in the newspaper as being willing to discuss that–and the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), all of whom now apparently agree that the minister should try to negotiate a solution? Does the Premier agree with them or disagree?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to the honourable member–and I am not sure where he has been for the last several months–that we have been trying to negotiate and we stand willing to negotiate with these people and always have. I can tell him that last June, and several times subsequent to that, we said to the Ontario Medical Association: "Let us sit down and talk about that. You know what we want to do with respect to extra billing. If you have any ideas on how to do that, we are delighted to sit down."

That offer still stands. We stand willing to talk about how to do that and how to resolve fee disputes in the future. I suspect, and I hope, that in the not-too-distant future we will be able to sit down and discuss all those things.

Let me tell the member, however, there is a time at which leadership is required, and we stepped forward and we put forward our views as to how the system should function. We did that on the last day of the session just before Christmas, as the member will be aware, having tried to negotiate for six months. We still stand ready, however, to discuss any good ideas they have. The member and I know that tomorrow in this House we are voting on the issue of extra billing and I suspect I know how that is going to turn out.

Mr. Rae: I do not think I heard an answer in that extended response. Perhaps the Premier should have turned around the other way and spoken to his colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services about what the government's policy is.

Is it the Premier's view that the proposal the Minister of Community and Social Services said he was not fundamentally opposed to–that is, that doctors would continue to be allowed to extra bill in their own offices–is the Premier's definition of a good idea and is that his definition of the basis upon which this matter will be resolved?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are voting tomorrow, but as the honourable member knows, we are not voting on that proposition, so it is very clear. I gather that a doctor from the Kitchener area who is an executive of the OMA had one idea. Other than what I have read in the press, I have no idea what the specifics or anything else in his idea are all about, and I suspect the member does not know either. That has never come to us formally through the OMA or anyone else. As far as I am concerned, it is at very preliminary stages. That idea has not come to us by way of any formal demand, so it is not on the table at the moment.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier offering to negotiate is like President Marcos offering to have an election. It is the same kind of approach.

Let me help the Premier understand the question. The Premier has assured everyone that he understands extra billing very well and that he has studied it for a long time. If he was telling the truth when he said that, and if he understands the issue in such depth, he should be able to answer the question just put by the leader of the third party.

Over the weekend, a simple proposal was made to his colleagues: that extra billing be banned only in hospitals. It was no more complicated than that: extra billing should be banned in hospitals. His colleagues the Minister of Community and Social Services, the member for Kitchener and the member for Waterloo North all indicated the concept was worth negotiating.

Our question to the Premier is whether he agrees with his colleagues that this simple concept is worth negotiating.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, with respect to the facts brought forward by the honourable member, they are wrong and he ought to check the press reports a little more carefully than he has quoted them in this House.

Second, these discussions have gone on in a very public way for the past several months. I have heard a number of ideas by a number of individuals at various times, some by doctors and some by those who are not part of the profession, who thought they had the magic compromise somewhere. However, I have yet to see any of these ideas brought to us from the OMA. As a matter of fact, it rejected that idea outright some time ago.

If he is asking me to respond to some idea by some doctor or individual out of the nine million people in this province who have wonderful ideas, the answer is no, it is not on the table at the moment. The OMA has not brought it forward and it is not what we have been discussing. We are voting tomorrow night on the issue of extra billing. Surely that is clear to the member.

[Applause]

Mr. Rae: The Minister of Community and Social Services applauded and I want a record of that.

I have a question for the Minister of Health. I have just given the minister a copy of a letter I received in my office on Friday from Dr. Robert W. Harris, who is a plastic, cosmetic and reconstructive surgeon affiliated with the Cornwall General Hospital and the Hôtel Dieu Hospital in Cornwall.

Obviously circumstances do not permit me to quote the entire letter. Suffice it to say Dr. Harris tells me of a situation whereby he was phoned at night with respect to a laceration of the thumb with severed tendon and joint dislocation that took place at two o'clock last Sunday morning. He was called by the staff of the hospital.

2:20 p.m.

He says: "Under normal circumstances I would have dragged myself out of bed. Initially, I agreed to respond to this call, and then as I was dressing, I was overcome with the thoughts that have been uppermost in all our minds latterly. I called the hospital back and suggested that the casualty officer do the best he could with the case. After all, the cost to the ministry is the same whether the surgery is done by a recent medical school graduate or a specialist with 20 years' experience. The result may be different, but then do you, Bob Rae, really care? And if you don't, why should I?"

This doctor refused to offer the care he was capable of providing. Is it the minister's view that this is a case which should be reviewed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have just seen the letter. Of course, I will be looking into the circumstances surrounding this matter.

I do note, however, that in the letter the physician notes that the casualty officer was also an medical doctor. Perhaps that has some significance with respect to his reaction in the circumstances. I will check into the situation and decide what action might be appropriate.

Mr. Rae: It is refreshing to know that the casualty officer is also a doctor, but the doctor in this case said: "Don't forget that I have the last say in whom I treat and whom I do not. Loss of income won't force me to compromise my principles. I foresee decreased accessibility."

Is it the minister's view that it is acceptable for a doctor practising medicine in this province to refuse to provide care and the skill which he has to a patient who is sick? Is it acceptable to the minister that this kind of reasoning will be allowed to prevail in the province? Does he not think it is unethical on the part of the doctor?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The particular writing obviously is not representative of the medical profession in this province in general. I have not seen this type of thing happening before. It may be that the member's suggestion that this be reviewed by the appropriate authorities should be taken. I will look into this and respond to the previous question in the manner I indicated earlier.

However, in my trips across this province and in dealing and speaking with physicians all over this province, who do not all see eye to eye with the legislation–and that is granted–each one of them has personally said to me he would not hurt his patients or do something that would be injurious to the patients. That is why this writing, this report, is of particular concern to me.

Mr. Grossman: I say to the Minister of Health that a hope and a prayer while he embitters the doctors and pushes them into a corner will not suffice, as this kind of problem surfaces in the system.

Mr. Rae: Does the member condone that?

Mr. Grossman: The member will get the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: Unlike the people the leader of the third party puts in office, we believe this should be referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Let him speak to the minister over breakfast and convince him. He let the member down.

Given this sort of problem is now beginning to surface around the province, does the minister not think it would be appropriate to take the advice of the Minister of Community and Social Services, the member for Kitchener, the member for Waterloo North and the member for Humber? Perhaps, unlike his leader, he should be not too proud to pick up the phone, call the Ontario Medical Association and say: "Would you be prepared to entertain a discussion with regard to a partial ban on extra billing and not a complete ban?"

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Does the member condone that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is quite clear from what my leader has said and from what I have said over the months that we have sought out and looked for advice all across this province. In the forums, we have asked the people of this province to tell us how we should address this question, how we can make Ontario respond to extra billing in this province.

I keep reading in the newspapers how some of these new, innovative ideas which are floated out are refused by the OMA leadership. I can say to the member here in this House that we are willing to listen to and look at opportunities of entering dialogue. I saw that the Ontario Medical Association had no use for the suggestion that was made through the members from the Kitchener-Waterloo area. It did not want to pursue it, and that is fine.

The honourable member over there will have well understood and will want to tell us tomorrow as he wraps up his debate how much we have striven to get extra and new ideas. I welcome his ideas.

Mr. Grossman: The minister should call the OMA as often as he calls–

Hon. Mr. Elston: Does the member have an idea? He has no ideas.

Mr. Grossman: Drop in tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait; the clock is going on.

Mr. Rae: Dr. James Brennan, a Kingston cardiologist, is quoted in the Sunday Star as saying, "He will feel 'stabbed in the back by any patient who supports this legislation,' and has written to all his patients to present his point of view. He said patients who disagree with him 'probably won't want to see me and I probably don't want to see them.' "

I hope the minister will agree that I have just given him two examples of where there is clearly a genuine problem at the heart of this issue with respect to the kind of care that is being provided and that physicians are prepared to provide, and the apparent attempt by some members of the profession to offer care that is different from the care they have been providing up until now.

Mr. Speaker: Minister.

Mr. Rae: Does the minister think these cases should be reviewed directly by the college of physicians and surgeons?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I said I will take a look at these when I have an opportunity; these just arrived on my desk. As I said earlier, they appear to be circumstances that should be reviewed, but I must take time to review them. For me to respond in any other manner would not be appropriate nor would it be professional. I have to examine these items. I will let the members know what action is being taken with respect to the examples.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be aware that the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Local 414, has launched an application to the Divisional Court of the Supreme Court of Ontario in an effort to stop the withdrawal of funds by Dominion Stores from the pension fund.

Given the nature of this application and given the fact that the employees involved were not informed of the decision of Dominion Stores to seek a withdrawal of funds, is it the Treasurer's view that any group of employees should be informed, and that if a withdrawal takes place without their being informed-

Mr. Speaker: Order. Treasurer.

Mr. Rae: –that withdrawal should not have been allowed to take place?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The courts are going to be asked to decide that question. I simply reassure the member and others who have expressed concern on this and similar cases that the Pension Commission of Ontario, applying the statutes and regulations of Ontario, ensures that 125 per cent of the investment or cash requirements are on hand to pay the agreed-upon benefits so that no one's benefits are in jeopardy, as established by agreement.

Mr. Rae: There is a fundamental question here about the extent to which employees' money is being used and taken away by employers without the consent or without even the knowledge of the employees involved.

Does the Treasurer intend to stop the withdrawal of funds by companies that have not informed their employees that this is what they are up to?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member knows the withdrawal of funds comes only with the approval of the Pension Commission of Ontario and it has to apply the statutes and regulations as they are. If the statutes and regulations require that the employees be informed, then the withdrawal was not correctly approved, but presumably the courts will decide whether there was sufficient information made available and what the disposition of the funds must be under the law.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer will know the amount of money that has been withdrawn has increased from $3 million in 1980 to $177 million last year; that so far this year the refunds of two companies in Ontario alone amounted to almost $140 million; and that the regulations do not require employees to give their approval or consent or that they even be informed with respect to the withdrawal of this money.

Why does the Treasurer not put a freeze on now until we have a clear decision from the Division Court, so that the people's money will be protected in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I say again that the benefits payable to the employees are safeguarded by the legislation to the extent of 125 per cent of the money that is required to be paid out. We do not feel there is a run on the pension funds, although the withdrawal rates are as the honourable member has described. If one compares it with 1980, it looks like a large increase; but compared with withdrawals from pension plans, we do not feel there is a run on the fund and no funds are being withdrawn except by permission of the pension commission.

JUDGES' RULINGS

Mr. Gillies: My question is for the Attorney General. On Friday in this House and afterwards, the Attorney General declared open season on judges in Ontario by saying, "They are frequently wrong." Then on the weekend we read that the Attorney General is going to charge an attorney in the province for criticizing a judge's judgement, all of this against the background of his recently criticizing me so roundly for criticizing a judge's decision.

Why is the Attorney General sending out such confusing signals to the people of Ontario about the integrity of our criminal justice system and his relationship as Attorney General with the judiciary of this province?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The only one who seems to be confused is my honourable friend, but as he was chosen "Yummie of the Year" last Saturday by a well-known periodical, I can understand the confusion in his mind.

The point I wished to make last week, which went by him in the excitement of this coronation to which he was exposed this weekend, was simply that under our system it is quite all right to disagree with conclusions judges draw. It is part of our judicial and political system that disagreement can be forcefully expressed.

What cannot be expressed is contempt. Contempt is contemplated when any person refers to the motives by which a judge comes to his decision and assigns to that judge an improper motive. When that occurs in our courts or outside of them, contempt proceedings will be taken in the usual way.

Mr. Gillies: I do not think the Attorney General appreciates that the signal that is going out is that it is all right for the Attorney General to criticize the judiciary in this province, but that it is not all right for anybody else to do so. I would suggest to the Attorney General–

Mr. Speaker: By way of question.

Mr. Gillies: Why is the Attorney General further confusing the House? After saying for two days in this House last week that it was not his responsibility in the case of a young offender to move for the transfer of a case from juvenile court to adult court, then on Friday, after the House had adjourned, he contacted all the crown attorneys in this province and instructed that be done. Again, will the Attorney General clarify these inconsistencies to the House?

Hon. Mr. Scott: There are no difficult or wrong signals going out, apart from the ones the honourable member is sending himself. I am not sure the administration of justice in the province is well served by his harping on a distinction that is nonexistent.

To come to his supplementary question, which is in no way connected with the primary question, I made plain last week our view of what had happened in the Irwin case. I indicated that the appropriate resolution of the problem the Young Offenders Act creates, not only with respect to 14-year-olds, but with 12-year-olds and 13-year-olds, was to obtain an amendment to the statute which would permit an appeal in those cases. I will be making a formal request to the Solicitor General of Canada when I meet with him tomorrow and I hope for easy passage of my proposal. That is the appropriate legislative solution to the problem.

In the meantime, I have directed all crown attorneys to do what I think is unfortunately required to be done under the Young Offenders Act, namely, to ask judges to refer cases.

Mr. Rae: I am sure the Attorney General would agree that an application of this kind with respect to a member of the bar or with respect to any citizen at all has very real implications for the right to exercise freedom of speech and does pose some real dilemmas for anyone concerned about civil liberties in Ontario.

Can the Attorney General tell us how often this procedure has been adopted in the past in this province and simply give us some indication of what kinds of procedures the Attorney General's office itself took before deciding to do what has been done?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I begin by agreeing with the observations the leader of the third party has made about the seriousness of this kind of proceeding. I have not made an inquiry to determine how many other cases there have

been, but I certainly recall 10 or 12 in my own period of practice.

In this particular case, the press report was brought to my attention. I read it and decided the only thing to do would be to refer it to investigation to determine whether the statements were actually made, as far as we could tell. I did that and I referred the matter to a senior crown attorney on my staff to make a recommendation.

UAW LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The minister will be aware that last week my colleague the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) and I raised a question with regard to the potential loss of 1,000 jobs at the General Motors trim plant in Windsor.

Is the minister aware that General Motors has announced these layoffs will take place and there will be an elimination of 1,000 jobs? Is he further aware that what General Motors is attempting to do in this situation is to take away the rights of Canadian workers as Canadian citizens, by saying they cannot strike legally in Canada as they are entitled to do under our law; and, second, that one of the ideas the company has floated with the union has been the elimination of Canadian statutory holidays by saying the workers could take American statutory holidays instead?

Does the minister not agree that is inappropriate? What is he prepared to do to stop the elimination of 1,000 jobs?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Over the weekend my deputy was in touch with both General Motors and the union's Mr. White. They are continuing with negotiations, and we will be meeting with General Motors this evening.

Mr. Hayes: It is quite obvious this is blackmail of Canadian workers, especially those at GM in Windsor. There is definitely no economic justification for this layoff. We do know this type of decision is made in the United States. I ask the minister, if he has not already done so, to set up a meeting with officials of General Motors, and include the local members of the provincial parliament, to deal with this very urgent matter.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I hope it will not come to having to negotiate a long time into the future. Both General Motors and the union have said they are ready to talk more. When I came into the House today I was handed a note which said:

"Have had further discussions with General Motors. It is their expectation that they will be able to replace the work that will be lost in due course, so job loss will be minimized." I do not think there should be any job loss. We will certainly work to that end.

2:40 p.m.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Fish: I have a question to the minister responsible for women's issues. I wonder whether he can inform this House whether he is acquainted with any of the following people: Diana Ferguson, Marilyn Sandler, Roxanne Labrie, Linda Loepke, Gwenne Becker or Kathleen Winterburn.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not know.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a supplementary to, "I do not know"?

Ms. Fish: Each of the women I named is a chief executive officer. More particularly, each is a chief executive officer of a company now in existence and thriving here in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

Last Friday, the minister tabled the names of the Premier's Business Advisory Committee on Pay Equity, not one member of which was a woman. On the weekend, in defence of that appalling list, a representative of the government indicated the reason no women were included was that there were no women chief executive officers.

Will the minister now direct that a serious and concerted search be undertaken to identify the women chief executive officers in this province and to appoint them to the Premier's Business Advisory Committee on Pay Equity, or is he simply intending to continue the sham he has started?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am particularly delighted to have that question because I take it that in the deserts across the way, the question reveals there is one honourable member in the opposition party who does support the proposition that there should be pay equity in the private sector.

When this matter comes to a vote, just as when the pharmaceutical bill comes to the vote and the Ontario health insurance plan bill comes to the vote, I know the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) will be with us again.

The answer to the very fair question put by the member–

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Her colleagues can hoot and holler, but it is a very fair question and I will undertake to consider it. If my friend will be good enough to give me the list of names, I will look at it, make contact and see what can be done. It is a fair question.

Mr. Grossman: Why could the minister not do it earlier? It is too late.

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is not too late.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Gigantes: The minister draws entirely the wrong conclusion from the question of my colleague on this side of the House. The conclusion he can draw is perhaps that he is finding support for endless consultation. Can we have his comments on that?

Hon. Mr. Scott: No, I did not take it that the member for St. George was suggesting that there should be endless consultation; neither was I. I understood her point to be that it would be appropriate and desirable that there should be a woman chief executive officer on an advisory committee. That is why I have asked her to let me have the names.

Mr. McClellan: One?

Mr. Scott: One or more. That is why I look forward to receiving the names. The point of it is, neither the member nor I, nor I take it the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes), is in favour of endless consultation. The consultation began today, and I can assure her it will not be endless.

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the same minister. He says we are not into endless consultations, but he set up an advisory committee to advise him on implementation when he is not willing to tell us yet what is the government's preference on implementation. Why do we need a bunch of men–business people–to tell him what to do on this?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I can now provide further information. I am advised that a number of the people referred to were contacted and asked to serve, but were unable to do so because of the time it was expected to take. That is to be regretted. They are not being paid.

Ms. Gigantes: Why are we into this extra round of consultation? Why are we getting word from the Ontario women's directorate that there will be more public meetings, some in May and some in June? How long is the whole process going to be spun out with these delaying tactics?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Before I got into government, when I represented clients I used to want to consult with government. The first thing I ever got was the bill. Then one would come up here to consult, but the bill was written in stone; 8,000 copies had been purchased, one could not get to see anybody who made the decisions and one could not get anything in the bill changed. This party decided there was some virtue in consultation. We decided that on an important subject such as pay equity, we should hear the views of the people concerned.

Mr. Grossman: The good lawyers knew how to do it.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The good lawyers got in all right. I knew exactly who the good lawyers were and which firms they were with; they were always the same people. They came up here and they got in without any trouble.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am waiting.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had a question Friday from the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) with respect to the response of the public health branch of the ministry to hemophilus influenza B and the use of vaccine to prevent its occurrence.

Hemophilus influenza B is a bacterial infection, not a viral infection as the honourable member suggested, that may cause meningitis or other diseases in small children; 95 per cent of all HIB infections occur in children less than five years of age. The most serious illness resulting from this type of infection is meningitis, which I am informed can be treated with antibiotics.

The Ministry of Health considers hemophilus influenza B meningitis to be a serious infection and it is a reportable disease under the regulations of the Health Protection and Promotion Act. About 150 cases of meningitis due to HIB are reported annually in Ontario. Cases occur throughout the year and are not especially prevalent during the winter months.

To reduce the incidence of hemophilus influenza B, two vaccines have been developed. I am advised that neither of these vaccines will protect children of less than two years of age, the group in which more than one half of the infections occur. These vaccines are not available in Canada, as the member for York Mills suggested. They have yet to be licensed for use in this country, although approval is expected this year.

When the vaccines have received federal approval, my ministry will determine the most effective use and application of these vaccines for young children in the province.

Mr. Sheppard: Add another three minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I recall last Friday the member for York Mills offering to inoculate the Minister of Health; I think something happened. That was a very lengthy response, and I will add a minute to question period.

Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding that these vaccines, as the minister will know, have been before the health protection branch for some time. With a little pressure, probably from the health protection branch–I hope we have one in Ontario in the Ministry of Health–that process might be speeded up a little.

The H influenza virus B is an infection that occurs primarily in children in February, March and April; that was the reason I asked the question. Is the minister going to do something to try to protect the 150 children who get meningitis annually from this infection?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I understand it, there is a difference in how one treats the virus and how one treats the bacterial infection. That was the point of the information I delivered here. There is treatment for the bacterial infection, as I understand it, but in relation to the virus there is a different procedure. The two vaccines that are available are not yet approved for use in Canada.

I will make some efforts to see what can be done with respect to our federal colleagues, although generally the health protection branch in Ottawa is very thorough and likes to have extended periods of testing so it can be sure of the safety. I will inquire with the federal authorities, but I stand by the information I delivered earlier.

Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: I will be glad to renew my offer of Friday to the minister.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

Mr. Harris: I have a question to the Minister of Natural Resources. He has employees who are placed in life-threatening situations when they are forced to draw their weapons; on average, some 20 to 25 times a year. They earn $26,500, some $10,000 less than some of the environment officers after one day's experience. The minister's conservation officers are earning $26,500 after 20 years of experience.

By virtue of their training, their use of side-arms and the nature of their work, they are primary law enforcement officers, yet the minister refuses to classify these men and women as anything but technicians. When will the minister and the Liberal government acknowledge this role and reclassify conservation officers to recognize them as peace officers in this province?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am certainly aware of the problem. It is being negotiated right now. I hesitate to make too many comments about the negotiations. The honourable member is coming on pretty strong. It appears he had plenty of time to do it if he felt that strongly about it, but it did not happen.

We, very fairly, are allowing a process that is going to have them put forward the reasons they should be considered. The question is valid at this time. The member can rest assured they will be given every opportunity to put forward their case in the negotiations. We will do the right thing by those conservation officers.

Mr. Harris: The minister will know it is some eight months since the grievances were first filed. That process was brought to my attention as minister, and I informed the ministry I agreed with their position and we would allow the process to go on for a month or two. That was it. Then my friend took over. I agreed with them then, I agree with them now; the public agrees and the police officers across this land agree with them. They earn about half of what one of the minister's executive assistants earns after one day's experience.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Harris: When will the minister use his power to reclassify them, so justice can be done for these men and women?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sure my friends in the third party would never agree we should stifle negotiations in any way; I am certain of that. The negotiations are being conducted in a very fair way. There are many different aspects to a conservation officer's function as compared to the role the member described, and all those are going to be taken into account. They will be treated fairly, the member can rest assured.

Mr. Pouliot: The minister will recall that approximately two or three months ago, I wrote him a letter meticulously outlining the discrepancies and the sentiment of injustice that was prevailing regarding the tenure and mandate of enforcement officers. With all due respect, they are cursing–and I am not the one saying so–both the other parties' houses. I have not received the courtesy of an answer.

Will the minister endeavour to rectify the injustice and at least tell us what is happening? We want to know because those people are asked to carry the guilt for the minister.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The comment is well made. The honourable member writes to me on many occasions, and I recall the letter very clearly. I can share with him what I have said to the honourable critic of the official opposition. In reality, the discussions and the negotiations are ongoing, and the Legislature will be the first place where we will give the results of the negotiations. The member can rest assured those officers will be treated fairly.

Mr. Harris: You are wrong lying to the people here.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I heard the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) accuse the minister of lying. Do you wish to withdraw that? Will you withdraw it, yes or no?

Mr. Harris: I believe I said that he misled the House and that he was lying to the House. I will withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ms. Bryden: I have a question to the Premier. Last Tuesday, I pointed out to him why the province should have a public interest in whether we have a faculty of architecture in the largest centre of architectural practice and training in the province.

In view of this public interest, will the Premier use his good offices to sit down with the University of Toronto authorities and ask them to slow down the decision-making process outlined in a memo from John J. Dimond to the chairman of the governing council? This proposes a speedup of the normal consultation processes with the aim of finishing them by the end of the current spring term, even though the report on which the recommendation to close is based is not yet published.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member has asked me to sit down with them and to slow down a process; however, I am not aware of this memo or, frankly, of any accelerated timetable in this regard. I gave the member a very full answer on Tuesday last with respect to what I consider to be the government's role in this discussion. If we can serve as a forum for sober second thought in this regard, if they would like to discuss it with us, I am sure the minister would be happy to do that, as would I if I could be helpful. I am not sure, however, that that in any way fundamentally alters the correct course of action and the procedures to be followed at the present time.

Ms. Bryden: Would the Premier be willing to have this matter referred to a committee for public hearings, in view of the concerns of the faculty and the students about the uncertainties of the future training of architects in this province? In the meantime, would he ask the University of Toronto to allow conditional enrolment until there have been full and adequate public hearings?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the member's suggestion, but on the one hand she is advocating more task forces, more study groups and more public hearings, while on the other hand her leader accused me the other day of having too many of those things.

It is not easy being in government. If we consult, we get criticized; if we do not consult, we get criticized. I ask the member opposite to have some sympathy for the difficulties of governing. It seems even when we are right we get no credit from the opposition. We always try to be sensitive to the needs of the opposition and to take its views into account, but ultimately decisions have to be made, and we are not afraid to make those decisions.

SPRAY PROGRAM

Ms. Fish: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Last week, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), in a press release issued by his office, indicated his ministry would be seeking a class environmental assessment on timber management activities. The release noted those activities would include activities to protect "crown forests from insects and disease."

3 p.m.

Will the minister clarify whether chemical spraying, and particularly aerial spraying of chemicals, will be examined in this environmental assessment under activities to protect forests from insects and disease?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As the member would know, the whole matter of spraying of forests by the Ministry of Natural Resources is a matter which will be discussed by the cabinet. At the moment, and this is whether we are in Toronto or whether we are outside of yuppie land, she would be aware that there are a number of open houses in eastern Ontario and in northern Ontario–

Mr. McClellan: Do not accuse the member of not being a yuppie.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is not Wonderland. I just keep reading what the leader of the

Progressive Conservative Party has to say outside of Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: Would the minister respond to the question?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He says we should not be so hard with these environmental issues, that we are just playing to the Toronto news media.

To get back to the member's question: to be fair to her, all these matters will be under review by the government and an announcement will be made in due course.

Ms. Fish: By way of supplementary, I do not think the matter of chemical spraying is a laughing matter or one to be dismissed into a corner. I do not believe anyone on this side of the House does. My difficulty with the minister's reply is that I am aware of the open houses but my question was very specific with respect to environmental assessment, so let me try again.

With the advice on the open houses, will the minister confirm that there will be no chemical spraying and, in particular, no aerial chemical spraying unless specifically approved through environmental assessment this year?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I can assure the member, as I have in the past, that this particular answer is not an attempt to curry favour with the latest urban trends in Metro Toronto, as her leader suggests the answers we give in the House are.

I can assure the member any spraying programs that would take place in Ontario will be subjected to the closest scrutiny and the greatest discussion among all members of cabinet so that the final decision will be in keeping with the best interests of Ontario, environmentally and otherwise, regardless of the representations we will get on all sides of the issue from members on all sides of the House. I can assure her the greatest consideration will be given to the environmental impact of any policy which is ultimately agreed to by this government.

Mr. Laughren: Since the draft environmental policy dealing with activities in our forests, which went from the Minister of Natural Resources to the Ministry of the Environment, does not deal with the spraying issue, would the minister assure us that any future spraying will be subject to the Environmental Assessment Act? If it is not done in that way, every year we are going to be going through the same debate across the province and the same open-house process. Why will he not make a commitment here and now to ensure that no chemicals will be used this year and that all spraying will be subject to the Environmental Assessment Act in future?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I know the member for Nickel Belt, who values much public input on matters of this kind, would feel it would be irresponsible on the part of this government if we did not have the kind of consultation which is offered through open houses and through the open invitation of the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Natural Resources to the people of this province to ensure them input on any methods which would be used to control those pests that are causing great damage to our forests.

As a member who is familiar with the north and with these problems, he will know that the circumstances change each year as to the degree of the problem and the manner in which the problem might be dealt with. We want to continue this consultation process. We do not feel the people should be excluded from this and therefore we will always take that into account in any decision which is ultimately made by this government.

PETITION

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Gillies: I have petition cards from 67 supporters of the Coalition for Public Education, all of which read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Ontario is a multiracial, multicultural and multifaith society that is well served by a strong public school system. Your government's proposal to extend public funding to the Roman Catholic separate secondary schools is a backward step since it will grant special status to one specific denominational group.

"We urge you and your government not to proceed with this divisive proposal."

Mr. Speaker: There are quite a number of private conversations. They may be necessary but they are very noisy.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on regulations and private bills be authorized to meet following routine proceedings on Tuesday, February 11, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to table the answers to questions 195 and 217 standing in

Orders and Notices [see Hansard for final sitting day of session].

I perhaps should have put this before the House under reports. With the agreement of the House, I would like to present the following report.

ANNUAL REPORT, INFLATION RESTRAINT BOARD

Hon Mr. Nixon presented the annual report of the Inflation Restraint Board for the year ended December 14, 1985.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would also like to indicate to the House and to some members who might have been expecting to proceed with the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines that, by agreement, we have switched these around from afternoon to evening for the convenience of almost all concerned.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved second reading of Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not intend to speak at any length on this. Very briefly, on July 12, 1985, when I introduced this bill, I said it was a complex and difficult piece of legislation and I looked forward, as I do today, to the comments that members of the Legislature may have to make about its principles and its mechanisms.

On behalf of the government, I want to say we look forward to suggestions from members on all sides of the House that will be designed to make this bill more effective in the interests of our people and of our government.

In that connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to section 46 of the bill, the section that permits an appeal to the commissioner created under the act.

Within days of my introducing this bill in July, one commentator concluded that the language of subsection 46(1) did not permit any appeal whatever. At that time I responded that I differed, that I believed subsection 46(1) did permit a full appeal on all matters of fact and law to the commissioner, except in those cases where the head of the office exercised a discretion.

3:10 p.m.

The debate has been carried on for some time. The view I have taken is the view that the government proposes to advance. If an amendment to subsection 46(1) is required to ensure clarity, that amendment will be proposed in due course by the government so that there will be a full appeal on all matters of law and fact to the commissioner.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Carleton-Grenville.

Mr. Sterling: Tobacco country, Mr. Speaker.

May I say at the outset that I am glad to see that the Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy Act is finally coming before the Legislature for second reading. I congratulate the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) on his intentions in putting this law in place in this province.

Unfortunately, I feel that in his haste to perhaps gain some political advantage he has drafted a bill that is open to criticism that I think is unnecessary, because some of those matters can be resolved. I intend to assist in resolving them in any way I can during the committee process. This caucus has decided it will support the bill on second reading. In fact, we will extend the bill to make it much wider than it currently is.

During the four-year period in which I served as a minister of the crown, I worked in close consultation with a large number of people on this legislation and in May 1984 I produced Bill 80. Bill 80, although seen to be defective in a major way with regard to the appeal process, was a good bill in a lot of ways because it fitted together very well.

It also was a bill that was readily understood, I believe, by a layman or an ordinary person in our province. Bill 34, unfortunately, does not meet that standard, and during the committee process I hope the Attorney General will come forward with a number of amendments that will address the readability of what the intentions of the ministry are.

I would like at this time to pay some gratitude to Carl Dombek, who is a lawyer with the Ministry of the Attorney General and who worked very closely with me during a four-year period to attempt to get a bill before this Legislature. He was assisted by a number of people, including Blair Smith, Sharon Miller, Krystine Linttell and Rudy Wall.

I would also like to thank particularly and put on the record a very great amount of gratitude to my former executive assistant, Loretta Bozovich, who probably knew as much about this act as

any of the people who were involved from the civil service side.

I asked the Attorney General some time ago whether he might consider redrafting this bill, because of what I consider to be a number of problems with it, and perhaps let Bill 34 die on the Orders and Notices and reintroduce another bill.

I also asked him whether he could forward to me any of the amendments he might have to it. I presume from the fact that we are going ahead with it and from the statement he has made that the present Bill 34 states his government's intentions, therefore, we are in a position on second reading of dealing with Bill 34 as it now stands. I just wanted to set the groundwork for both myself and my colleague the member for Oakville (Mr. O'Connor).

I will discuss briefly the philosophical questions that must be addressed in legislation of this kind. Two questions have to be foremost in the minds of the people who are going ahead and drafting this kind of bill. First, for every access benefit there is a privacy detriment when dealing with personal information. Much of the information we have stored in government data banks and government files is personal information.

Second, and perhaps more important under our parliamentary system as we have inherited it, the whole question of ministerial responsibility comes to the fore. The question is whether the minister is responsible for the damage done to an individual or society when he releases this information. The other question, in dealing with the whole idea of ministerial responsibility, is who makes the ultimate decision as to what is in the public's best interest and what is not. These two difficult questions were wrestled with by myself and by the Attorney General in trying to strike a proper balance between these interests involved.

Our country and our province have been moving further away from the British parliamentary system over the past few years. We have lifted, and continue to lift, power out of our elected representatives and put it in the hands of a court or independent quasi-judicial body. This is best exemplified by our Charter of Rights and the decisions we as a Legislature here in Ontario have given over to the courts of our land. This can best be demonstrated by our debates, the hearings and the consideration of Bill 30 by the Court of Appeal at this time. There would be some question as to whether that would be before the courts if we did not have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

This freedom of information and privacy legislation is a second step down that road towards evolving more responsibility on nonelected representatives. I do not know whether we are going in the right direction, but the direction is well set.

Who decides what is in the public's best interest? Is it the court or the politicians? Before we took this step, as contained in Bill 34, it would have been better to try to focus attention on a government that was not willing to produce information. That would have made politicians more accountable to the Legislative Assembly rather than putting the responsibility into a judicial atmosphere and allowing judges to make that final decision.

However, I now accept that we are down that road and that we as a Legislature continue to be willing to divert power away from ourselves. I predict that, as we have seen done by this recent government, we will continue to refer more and more decisions to study groups, advisory groups, inquiry groups—to any group other than the politicians who are elected to make these final decisions. In my view, it is a convenient way of avoiding accountability.

Having said that is my personal feeling, I would rather have an access and privacy act with a court making that final decision than have no act at all. I also accept that within the public at present there is not sufficient trust in us as politicians to give the public confidence that we will treat information in a fair and objective manner.

3:20 p.m.

We accept that an independent review process is necessary; we do not accept the independent review process contained in Bill 34. I will refer to that later in my comments, as will my colleague the member for Oakville.

Many of the innovations put forward in Bill 80, the Privacy and Access to Information Act, in May 1984, are included in Bill 34. The Attorney General did not allude to them when he introduced this bill in the Legislature; so I thought it would be important to draw attention to the fact that the very important section 11 of Bill 34 was taken or lifted directly from Bill 80.

I am personally proud that section was put in Bill 34 because it was put in Bill 80 at my insistence. That is the first time such a section has been included in any access to information act in the world. It obligates the government to produce information without a request where there is a real health hazard or environmental hazard to the public. It puts the government in legal jeopardy.

If it does not produce that information and it is later discovered that it was available and could have prevented damage, then the government would be legally responsible to compensate people who suffered as a result of that damage.

Our party intends to put forward a number of amendments to this bill. As I mentioned before, there is much to praise in Bill 34. It follows the general principles of access to information, a lot of which were taken from Bill 80–and I admit some were added–but in some important ways it falls short of some of the provisions that were included in Bill 80. We will be putting forward only one amendment which will be more restrictive than in Bill 34, relating to who should have the right of access under this bill.

This bill does not limit access on the basis of citizenship or landed immigrant status. We believe access should be the right only of a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant, as provided in the federal act. I know the advocates of freedom of information would disagree with me. However, there are significant costs associated with putting this legislation into effect and the taxpayers of Ontario should be shielded to some degree from requests from people who are not citizens of our country or landed immigrants. This can be avoided by going through a corporation which is registered here for public information. It cannot be avoided for private information about private individuals.

When I was responsible for drafting this bill, a number of examples were brought forward to me from the justice department in the United States whereby non-American citizens had cost the United States government significant amounts of money because of requests to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the various security agencies involved there. One individual, who is not an American and who was a known felon, cost the American government in excess of $500,000.

That is an exaggerated example, and I do not think that would happen from day to day. Our party's support for this bill is not going to fall on the acceptance of that amendment. However, all the other amendments are very positive in the nature of extending and requiring the civil service to react to the act in a quick and efficient manner.

Bill 34 allows a public servant or a member of an agency to request any number of extension periods. Our party will put forward an amendment, such as was contained in Bill 80, to allow only one extension period of approximately 45 days. Bill 34 does not impose a maximum time for a decision the commissioner must make as to whether he is going to provide information; a maximum of about 90 days should be placed on it, as in Bill 80.

Under Bill 34, there is no positive duty placed on the provider of the information within government to disclose as much information as he can when a document includes some portions that are exempt and some that are not; in other words, when one is severing parts of information away from other information that is exempt under the act. We will attempt to amend Bill 34 to impose a positive duty to disclose as much information as possible.

Under Bill 34, there are very few requirements on the government to produce the necessary documentation so that a citizen can understand what records are available, where they are available and who they should contact about them. We will introduce a section, such as was in Bill 80, to require the government to produce each year a detailed description of the organization and responsibilities of each division or branch, a description of all classes of records, identification of the personal records kept by an institution, a description of all manuals used for various laws, and the title and address of the person to whom to send a request.

Perhaps this was an oversight on the part of the Attorney General, something I alluded to previously, but Bill 34 does not require the information commissioner to table his report in the Legislature or to make it public. We will make an amendment of that nature.

Under Bill 34, there is a possibility that what happened with the federal Access to Information Act might happen here as well. Bureaucrats, civil servants, ministers or whoever it might be might use the act to shield more information than it is already the practice of the government to release. Therefore, we would like to have an overriding section, as in Bill 80, that will preserve pre-existing access rights to information.

We would like to amend the advice and recommendations of section 13 of Bill 34, so we can assure that what is often called "secret law" in the information community will be available to the public. These are policy or other statements that reveal how our law is to be implemented by the civil servants. We believe the exceptions to the advice and recommendations, as was contained in subsection 17(2) of Bill 80, should be implemented in section 13 of Bill 34.

3:30 p.m.

The Attorney General indicated in his opening remarks that he believes section 46 of Bill 34 is okay as it stands. I do not believe his interpreta-

tion of that section is satisfactory. It is not satisfactory to a number of people who have been involved with this kind of legislation for some time.

I must remind the Attorney General that on the day he introduced this piece of legislation I turned to section 46 and asked him, "Are you sure this section is right?" That was within 15 minutes of receiving a copy of the act. His reply was that there was some other interpretation. I assumed it was a misprint when I first read it. Unfortunately, other people have added credibility to what I first thought. Therefore, we are going to have to do something about that section in order to ensure that the discretion of any public servant or minister can be appealed to the information commissioner and eventually to the courts.

The Attorney General has said that was his intention. He has also stated his intention was only to prevent the information commissioner from reviewing a positive decision of the minister to grant access. First, there is some problem with the way the law is written. Second, even if that was his intention, this would mean that if a bureaucrat decided to allow access to a document containing personal information about a citizen, he would not give the citizen the right to block access to that information. I do not think that is what the act should say either. Section 46 has some real problems.

An overriding concern I have with this section is that Bill 34 makes the information commission the final decision-maker, but the information commissioner is not provided with the amount or the kind of independent review that such an important statute warrants. It does not matter who that information commissioner is; although acting with all the right motives, he may be right or wrong. We will therefore propose an amendment to permit judicial review of the information commissioner's decision.

I would like to follow the procedures and criteria of the federal access and information commissioner. The court would be able to examine any withheld documents. Parties would be able to have counsel. The burden of proving that withholding a record is authorized or done on reasonable grounds would be on the government. If a third party goes to court, he or she would have the burden of proving that a record should or should not be released. As a consequence, when there is a possibility of judicial review, the information commissioner will no longer need the power to make an order. I will propose an amendment to make it clear that his power is to make a recommendation. The courts should make the final order.

I strongly disagree with the idea of an information commissioner, whom I view as an ombudsmanlike person, having the power to make binding orders. I do not think the information commissioner should be the final adjudicator. His most important function, if we are going to get this act to work for the average man on the street and within a reasonable time, is to have that office in a position to negotiate and conciliate. If there is a power to issue orders, it would be very difficult to negotiate in good faith.

To sum up, we will be proposing amendments to the appeal process which will give the information commissioner the power to review all complaints under the act and make recommendations. If anyone is unhappy with the recommendations, he or she could apply for judicial review. I think it is important that the steps all be spelled out in the act, so the general public can understand directly which route it must go.

In looking at this particular act and considering it in a very serious way, our party will propose amendments that will alter the exemption dealing with cabinet records. I will propose an amendment that will restrict the exemption so it only protects records that really reflect the deliberation of ministers. I will propose adding the word "solely" to the criteria in the exemption, as was the case in Bill 80.

In addition, we will propose an exception to the exemption, so that factual background analysis and information becomes accessible as soon as the cabinet decision to which it relates is made public, or four years after the decision if it is not made public. Quite frankly, I have personally never understood why such material should not be made public.

Second, another major area to which we will be proposing an amendment relates to the office and the role of the privacy commissioner. I believe he should be able to act in a proactive and not just a reactive manner to privacy concerns within government and within our province. We will seek to widen the role of the privacy commissioner, so he or she might bring to the attention of a legislative committee general problems in our society with fair information practices and privacy concerns. The commissioner should be put in a position whereby he can encourage institutions inside and outside government to develop privacy codes and to implement them.

I am aware that a number of members want to speak on this particular act. As I have indicated to the Attorney General and to the members of the third party, particularly the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes), I and my caucus will work co-operatively to make this the most open, accessible act possible. Our party is ready at this stage to go to some length to see that goal is achieved.

Ms. Gigantes: I think everybody is in favour of what should be our goals in this bill. It seems they have been in favour of them for the last 10 years or more.

I regret that Donald MacDonald, who introduced the first freedom of information legislation in this House as a private member in 1975, has not returned from his dental appointment yet. The scheduling of House business today has been so confused for so long that I was not able to tell him this bill was coming up until just before noon today.

3:40 p.m.

That is a regret, but as we deal with this bill I would like to acknowledge that Donald and another New Democratic colleague and former member of this House, Patrick Lawlor, each introduced bills akin to this one, each one three times. There were six bills that came out of this caucus in the past 10 years, since 1975, dealing with this subject.

Everybody is in favour of what the goals in this legislation should be: to provide access to government information and to provide protection of personal privacy for Ontario citizens. If we do not get our goals straight in this area of legislation, we can run into real difficulties. There has been a legacy, which I think was alluded to by the member for Carleton-Grenville, of having the situation tighten up as far as Ontario citizens are concerned.

A bad bill can be worse than no bill at all. I really believe that, and on several grounds. Legislation such as this, if it is not workable, sound and good, can lead to a sense of false security on the part of the citizenry of Ontario; and a sense of false security in the area of access to information and protection of privacy can be a very dangerous thing in the long run.

As the member for Carleton-Grenville has suggested, it can also lead to an increase in the resistance by government and the bureaucracy to providing access to information, to providing real freedom of information. It can lead to an increase in the resistance of the bureaucracy to any intrusion into its patterns of dealing with matters touching on the personal privacy of citizens. That is a real danger.

In Ottawa in the past few months, I myself ran into a situation where I knew very well that the information I was asking for from a federal department would in previous times have been given to me without much cost in time and energy on my part. In this case, I had to make an access to information application and they waited the 30 days.

If we say they can wait 30 days, then they will wait 30 days. Bureaucracies can feel a need to protect themselves because the legislation says they can, and they do it. When the legislation says they can take 30 days, they take 30 days. When the legislation says they can review whether a request for information is acceptable, they review it. That is the potential of legislation that is not good enough; I do not think that is a potential any of us want to see realized.

There can be a lessening of access to government information, a lessening of freedom of information and a lessening of protection of personal privacy if we have a bad bill touching on these subjects, as we currently have. All of us should be alert to that.

Perhaps I can make four major points to back up what I am going to say, that on the whole Bill 34 is not a good bill. I grieve to say this because I would like to see a good bill and I would like to see us not have to wrestle, grope, grapple and argue with, and have to rewrite, amend and go through a painful process of changing Bill 34. However, I do not think Bill 34 is a good bill.

The first point was mentioned by the member for Carleton-Grenville. What he called "readability," I will call "accessibility." This bill is not accessible. The bill talks about access to information, but it is not accessible. Reading it is a major pain. It has a convoluted structure; it has references back and forth between access to information provisions and then forward or backward to protection of privacy provisions. It is enormously convoluted in structure. There is overlapping in some parts of the bill dealing with the same subjects in a different way; sometimes inconsistently in my view.

It is more complex in general than a good, hard insurance bill, although we have gone some way towards improving the language of insurance bills and contracts for the benefit of the citizenry of Ontario. I know people are always tempted to say it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to figure it out. The problem is, even when one figures it out, it is unsatisfactory because of the convolutions, the overlaps and some inconsistency. If a

bill of this nature is to meet the need it seeks to answer, it is very important that we try to simplify its structure and make it readable for the ordinary citizens who may have to use it.

Second, this is not a very strong bill. The list of exemptions on both matters of access to information and matters touching on personal privacy is exceedingly and excessively long. The exemptions are all-encompassing. It is very hard to think of one area under the sun that might not have been exempted that is not in those lists.

If I could give an example of what I mean, if we turn to part II of the bill, which deals with freedom of information, sections 10 and 11 give the grounds for access to record. I am going to read them.

Section 10 says:

"Every person has a right of access to a record or a part of a record in the custody or under the control of an institution unless the record or the part of the record falls within one of the exemptions under sections 12 to 22."

Section 11 says:

"Despite any other provision of this act, a head shall, as soon as practicable, disclose any record to the public or persons affected if the head has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that it is in the public interest to do so and that the record reveals a grave environmental, health or safety hazard to the public."

Those two sections basically define a citizen's right to access to information and of freedom of information under this legislation. If members will look through the next six pages, they will see the exemptions. It takes 10 lines to define the citizen's rights; then the next six pages plus define all the exemptions that would be available under this bill. I find that list of exemptions unacceptable. I find the list of exemptions, in both this section on access to information and the section on privacy protection, awesome and frightening.

I also find this careful and detailed circumscribing of the guarantees of freedom of information and privacy protection, which the bill purports to offer, generates in me the troubled impression that the bill is not meant to deliver what it says. Therefore, we should look and see what it says. What are its purposes as defined by the bill? What will they be? When we turn to section 1 of the bill, we find the purposes:

"1. The purposes of this act are,

"(a) to provide a right of access to information under the control of an institution in accordance with the principles that,

"(i) government information should be available to the public,"

"(ii) necessary exceptions to the right of access should be limited and specific, and

"(iii) decisions on the disclosure of government information should be reviewed independently of government; and

"(b) to protect the privacy of individuals with respect to personal information about themselves held by an institution and to provide individuals with a right of access to that information."

3:50 p.m.

I find it very strange that in weighing up the purpose of what would become our act to provide for freedom of information and protection of individual privacy, there is a reference to the exemptions in the very spelling out of the purpose.

If the Attorney General thinks about it a bit more and if, as he suggested earlier, he is willing to contemplate a change to the section governing how a person may appeal from a decision of the information and privacy commissioner, and if he thinks of cases that may arrive before a court in the nature of the steps that may be followed going through this legislation, he will recognize that a citizen may arrive before the court and a judge will look at the act and say, "What is the purpose of this act?"

What we are saying in subclause 1(a)(ii) is that a part of the purpose is that there should be exceptions. I feel that is such a negative way of framing even what we set out as our goal in the legislation. The subject area is so important, and it has taken us so long through the institution of government and through this particular governmental institution to come to the point where we recognize absolutely the need for this kind of legislation, and yet throughout the bill we find negative statements that express not only the implementation of the tenets of this bill but also the purpose.

It seems so weird to me that in a bill of this nature, in the statement of purpose we have set out as a principle that there shall be exceptions. I find it very strange. I find it singularly lacking in the kind of feeling for the poetry of what we are doing. Quite beyond the poetry of what we are doing, in a practical sense, it may have implications that we do not want to see in this bill as completed. If our purpose is to promote freedom of information and protection of personal privacy, then let us say so in the purpose. It seems to me that even to mention the exceptions in the purpose is to begin our work by saying we want an act to provide for freedom of informa-

tion and protection of individual privacy, and the ways government can get around either principle.

The third point I want to raise in a general way is that I am concerned about what I see in the bill as a privileged treatment of the law enforcement machinery in this province. There are many clauses relating to special exceptions, exemptions and so on dealing with matters which may be thought, or may some time in the future be thought, to relate to law enforcement. This is of particular concern to me. Surely one of the clear tests of democratic government is the ability to have public control of the state machinery of policing.

Our own national history has given us painful proof in recent years that we must pay close attention to the operations of law enforcement agencies. Despite federal legislation similar to this requiring all federal government data banks to hold only that information which is clearly for a recognized and legal purpose, our historical legacy of a law enforcement agency, which was a government unto itself, remains.

To make my point, I want to read a small section of an article that was printed in the Ottawa Citizen on October 4, 1985, under the headline "Concealed RCMP Documents: Government Admits it Broke Law." I do not really agree with the headline when I read the article, but members will be able to make their own judgement.

The article is written by Peter Calamai of Southam News. He is one of the more experienced reporters in Canada, and he has done a lot of work in this area. It reads:

"The government broke its own privacy law in ordering the concealment of RCMP security dossiers on more than 700,000 Canadians, the federal justice department has admitted."

This is not 10 years ago; this is last fall.

The admission, made public only Wednesday, has raised immediate questions about 19 secret federal data banks containing files on an estimated 1.5 million individuals.

"'There's cause for concern,' privacy commissioner John Grace told Southam News in an interview.

"Grace said his officials were 'giving immediate attention' to the revelations. He agreed with a reporter's suggestion that the practice could undermine the whole theory of the federal privacy law, which gives Canadians the right to examine personal files held by any government agency.

"A person's right to review his file can be wiped out if the federal cabinet declares a whole bank of laws exempt from the privacy law. Once a data bank is declared exempt, the government agency does not even have to confirm that a file exists on an individual."

What we can read from this article indicates the source of my concern. In this case, it seems clear to me, the federal privacy protection provisions have been ignored. It does not mean that the federal act has been faulty in this area, but that it has been infringed. That is how I read the case.

This is just the latest of many such indicators of the special need for close monitoring of law enforcement agencies, and it should remind us again of our duties to provide good monitoring and close control.

Bill 34, in my view, fails to reflect this important legislative responsibility. I want to read the sections about which I have particular concern. I am referring to section 14; it goes on for a page and a half, but I think once I read the list to members, my point will be made.

Section 14 says:

"(1) A head may refuse to disclose a record where the disclosure could reasonably be expected to,

"(a) interfere with a law enforcement matter;

"(b) interfere with an investigation undertaken with a view to a law enforcement proceeding or from which a law enforcement proceeding is likely to result;

"(c) reveal investigative techniques and procedures currently in use or likely to be used;

"(d) disclose the identity of a confidential source of information, or disclose information furnished only by the confidential source;

"(e) endanger the life or physical safety of a law enforcement officer or any other person;"

That is a double exemption in the bill because there is already that provision for the general public, and I do not know why we would have to put in a double insurance policy for law enforcement officers or any other person.

"(f) deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication;

"(g) interfere with the gathering of or reveal intelligence information respecting organizations or persons;

"(h) reveal a record which has been confiscated from a person by a peace officer in accordance with an act or regulation;

"(i) endanger the security of a building or the security of a vehicle carrying items, or of a system or procedure established for the protec-

tion of items, for which protection is reasonably required;

"(j) facilitate the escape from custody of a person who is under lawful detention;"

I would think that would be precluded by other Criminal Code provisions.

"(l) facilitate the commission of an offence or hamper the control of crime.

"(2) A head may refuse to disclose a record,

"(a) that is a report prepared in the course of law enforcement, inspections or investigations by an agency which has the function of enforcing and regulating compliance with a law;"

Does that mean all our conservation officers too?

"(b) that is a law enforcement record where the disclosure would constitute an offence under an act of Parliament;

"(c) that is a law enforcement record where the disclosure could reasonably be expected to expose the author of the record or any person who has been quoted or paraphrased in the record to civil liability; or

"(d) that contains information about the history, supervision or release of a person under the control or supervision of a correctional authority.

"(3) A head may refuse to confirm or deny the existence of a record to which subsection (1) or (2) apply."

4 p.m.

That is a long list. I cannot think of any matter that anybody might suggest would in any way relate to law enforcement–past, present, future, hypothesized, speculative, contemplated in the recesses of somebody's mind–that would not be exempted on that list. I defy anybody to tell me what we would ever find out about any law enforcement matter in Ontario, given those clauses. I just cannot see the use of it. Further, I think it is a wickedness to have it on the books because it provides a protection for people who wish it on certain grounds. It provides an excuse. I prefer it not to be there. Let us have no law rather than that kind of law.

My fourth area of concern is one the Attorney General has touched on, as has the member for Carleton-Grenville, and that is the appeal process. It needs thorough thought. If the minister believes subsection 46(1) is clear, I will tell him it is not through lack of trying that it is not clear to me. When he finds everybody is out of step except him, he should wonder if he is reading it in the same way as the rest of the world. With respect to an appeals process, it does not seem to offer us what he believes or says he believes it does.

The case of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police data bank which was called data bank P130, to which I referred by reading the article by Peter Calamai, brings to mind the need for the possibility of judicial review. I am not one of those who prefers to have everything brought to court. As a legislator, I am quite jealous of having matters moved to the court system that should be dealt with here by our able Legislature.

The case of data bank P130 was brought to light and forced on the government by action in the federal court. I wonder whether it would have come to light if the individual who took the case had not had access to the courts. We had better get John Grace, the federal privacy commissioner, to come here and give his opinion; and we had also better ask the man who took the federal court action, Nick Tramat of Winnipeg.

The minister probably reads the consensus of the Legislature on this item. I am pleased he is willing to spell out exactly, and in language the rest of us can understand, what kind of judicial review will be possible, because it is something we may need.

We have a lot of work to do before Bill 34 is an acceptable measure. Because I feel so strongly that the area of freedom of information and privacy protection is one of the most important subjects a democratic Legislature can address, I hope the minister and the government will be open to a major reworking of this bill. As I said earlier, I am firmly convinced it is better to have no bill than a bad bill. We can find lots of testimony to that effect from other jurisdictions.

I ask members to reflect on that, because while I very much want to see good legislation in place, and this caucus has a long and strong record of supporting this kind of legislation, and I am also very ready and eager to undertake the heavy work that lies ahead if we are going to make a good bill out of this one, I am not happy to vote for a bad one. I believe Bill 34 in its present form is a bad bill.

In the spirit of comments from the minister and the member for Carleton-Grenville, we can approach our job positively. We can do some major work on this bill. When we do, we will be offering the citizens of Ontario a lasting and impressive demonstration of our common commitment to responsible and democratic government.

Mr. O'Connor: I welcome the opportunity to add a few brief remarks to the comments already made by the three previous speakers, including

the Attorney General, and simply to endorse initially the comments of all three speakers in so far as they make reference to the need for a freedom of information and protection of privacy statute in Ontario.

It has been a long time coming. As the member for Ottawa Centre has indicated, in the past 10 years three bills have been introduced in this House, one by each party. Given that set of circumstances, I suggest that Bill 34 will pass through this House and will ultimately, in some modified, improved form as a result of the hard work and efforts of the two opposition parties, become the law of Ontario.

It is perhaps trite to point out that in a democratic society the governors must enjoy the collective confidence of the governed, failing which the people will simply replace them with other governors who have managed, usually only temporarily, to inspire more confidence than their immediate predecessors have inspired. It also seems trite to argue that essential to the maintenance of public confidence is knowledge of what government is doing with the money and the information it collects; and of what it is doing for, or sometimes to, the citizens it governs. Without this knowledge, how can a citizen make a responsible decision about his governors?

Thus, in a modern western world of highly educated citizens, such as we enjoy in Canada and particularly in Ontario, the public increasingly is demanding information from government to ensure its accountability to the people and to increase the latter's participation in the regulation of their affairs, or simply to assist in choosing who should next represent them in government.

It is a sad commentary on the health of our democratic process to have to concede that formal legislation is required to guarantee so fundamental a principle as the disclosure of what legislators were elected to do by the people and to the people. However, events large and small, from Watergate on the one hand to the case of a constituent of mine in Oakville who has been refused an autopsy report on his wife's death on the other hand, have brought to us the realization that, unless scrutinized, we as legislators often arbitrarily abuse the power to collect, process and distribute information.

The other fundamental right, which similarly in an ideal world should not require a formal legislative directive, is that of personal privacy. The right of the individual to privacy or to the nondisclosure of information about his own affairs is complementary to and often in conflict with the right of all of us to know what government is doing on a daily basis.

While the individual as a member of the public seeks freedom of information or the right to know, in his personal life he claims the right to privacy. The same person may be making both of those complementary and opposite claims at the same time. Some accommodation between the two interests must therefore be made. If the privacy of the individual is to be protected, there will be occasions when information cannot be divulged. In other situations, personal information about an individual may be of such vital concern to society that the individual's privacy must be sacrificed.

Thus, as legislators we must attempt to clarify and set limits in both areas above mentioned in the one statute that is now before the House. This attempt is unique to Ontario. It was a challenge to the previous government and it is a challenge to the present government to accomplish both ends in the same statute.

4:10 p.m.

It is obvious that both of these issues raise important concerns about the relationship between the citizen and the state. Those who argue for greater access to government information are faced with a competing claim from those who wish to ensure that the invasion of individual privacy does not result from the disclosure of information held in government files.

This conflict and tension between the freedom of information and privacy protection claims led the former government to establish a commission to study the two questions. The report of that commission, entitled Public Government for Private People, was published in 1980 and contains 141 specific recommendations. It was the foundation for the previous government's Bill 80, Privacy and Access to Information Act, and for the current Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy.

Both pieces of legislation enshrine certain necessary principles in both of these areas. However, both bills contain flaws to a lesser or greater degree in a meaningful scheme of disclosure and protection. The member for Carleton-Grenville, the author of the previous bill, has put to the House the comparative merits of the two bills and has in addition prepared a document that on a clause-by-clause basis analyses and compares Bill 80 with Bill 34.

I propose to look briefly at Bill 34. Although I support the principle--I understand all parties do, at this stage of the passage of the bill at any

rate—which is what is at issue on second reading, I will suggest several areas for improvement at the committee stage.

Looking first at freedom of information, there are three general principles essential to a meaningful statute. These principles are set out in section 1 of the bill on the purposes of the act. Perhaps I can read them for the record.

"1. The purposes of this act are,

"(a) to provide a right of access to information under the control of an institution in accordance with the principles that,

"(i) government information should be available to the public,

"(ii) necessary exceptions to the right of access should be limited and specific, and

"(iii) decisions on the disclosure of government information should be reviewed independently of government."

These three general principles were enunciated in the report to which I alluded and they are very important principles. I compliment the drafters of the bill for taking the somewhat unusual step of enshrining the principles as a section of the statute.

Dealing with them individually: in the case of the first one, the general public's right of access to government-held information, when dealing with the term "government-held information" we must include not only the ministries of government but also the full range of agencies, boards and commissions controlled by and reporting to the government.

Dealing with the second basic principle, that of clearly defining and limiting the exceptions to a disclosure scheme, we must concern ourselves that the list is narrow and restrictive and that the onus is on government at all times to make the case for an exemption. We must enshrine in the bill the principle that it is a fundamental part of democratic government that its citizens know what it is doing.

The third principle, that of an independent review of government decisions to release or withhold information, is dealt with at some length in the bill but it contains some difficulties that have been alluded to by previous speakers.

Essential to the implementation and administration of these principles, but perhaps of less basic importance, is the recognition that the cost to be borne by the persons seeking information should be kept as low as possible. Further, there must be specific time limits within which governments should be required to respond to requests for information. In many cases, the passage of excessive amounts of time may negate the purpose of the request, so that it is no longer meaningful to meet the request because it was necessary to do so in a short period of time to give effect to the needs of the person making the request.

If we analyse the three broad principles I have just mentioned, we can readily see that Bill 34 requires amendment to comply with each and every one of them. Dealing with the first one, when proclaiming the right to government-held information the bill does not include all the myriad of agencies, boards and commissions controlled by the government. The 1980 Commission on Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy recommended maximum access. I quote from that report:

Institutions should include agencies, boards and commissions "that are either (a) financed exclusively from the consolidated revenue fund of the province of Ontario, or (b) controlled by the government either through ownership of 50 per cent or more of the issued and outstanding shares in a corporate body or through having the power of appointment of a majority of the board of directors or other governing body or committee of the institution in question."

The conflicting principles might be described as opting-in or opting-out, terms with which this government is very familiar in this day and age. Bill 34 provides for opting in, while the preferred alternative clearly is opting out. That is, only those institutions listed in the act or regulations are exempt under the opting-out procedure. To prepare the list, the government must choose among institutions to exempt. The decision is made in an accountable way because the list of those designated as exempt is public and can be praised or criticized. The opting-in procedure which has been adopted by the government means that only those institutions listed in the act or regulations are covered; all others are exempt. Clearly, the reverse is the way to go.

In that regard, I refer to section 10 of the bill, which upon initial reading sounds like a commendable and positive expression of the necessity to be open to everyone who makes a request. It says, "Every person has a right of access to a record or a part of a record in the custody or under the control of an institution unless the record or the part of the record falls within one of the exemptions...."

The difficulty with that section comes when we read the definition of "institution." In section 2, the definition section of the act, "'institution' means, (a) a ministry of the government of Ontario"—that is fine; it should include all

ministries–"and (b) any agency, board, commission, corporation or other body designated as an institution in the regulations."

Unless the step has been taken to include the name of an agency, board or commission in the regulations, it is exempt from any request for access to information. The reverse is surely the way we should go. Make the governors specifically think of what they want exempted and put them in the list, in the regulations or in the act. This would be a much more comprehensive and fair approach to the public in requesting information.

The opting-in principle provides little accountability because the exempted institutions cannot be ascertained with accuracy. For example, are commissions or corporations that report through a ministry in or out? What of the divisions within a ministry; which are in and which out? Under the opting-in principle, newly created entities are automatically exempt unless they are opted-in by being added to a schedule. Under the opting-out principle, new entities would be automatically covered.

With regard to the second general principle and the difficulties that arise there, the necessity for exemptions to the right of access should be limited and specific. I would point out that the classes of exemptions listed in the bill are, in general, those used in similar legislation in other jurisdictions, including the federal Access to Information Act. They include cabinet records, advice to government, law enforcement, relations between governments, defence, the economic interests of the province, solicitor-client privilege, personal privacy, commercial information and protection of health or safety. In general, all are necessary exemptions that should be in the act.

4:20 p.m.

However, one area does require significant change; that is the area alluded to by the member for Carleton-Grenville. The exemption for cabinet records is far too broad. This exemption should protect only those records that really reflect the deliberations of ministers. What can be the rationale, the argument, for protecting anything other than those records and documents that are used by the cabinet in the course of arriving at a decision? By adding the word "solely" to the criteria in the exemption, as was the case in the previous government's Bill 80, we can achieve this desirable end.

Further, factual background analysis and information relating to a cabinet decision should be excepted from the exemption as soon as the decision is made public; or if a decision is not made public, within four years of a decision having been taken.

As the member for Carleton-Grenville indicated, we will be moving amendments at the committee stage to give effect to this broadened right to cabinet documents.

The third principle, that decisions on the disclosure of government information should be reviewed independently of government, is the area where the most serious difficulty arises in the current legislation. Arguably, the flaw I indicated as serious is fatal to this bill. It is an utter failure to meet the requirement for independent review of decisions to release or withhold information. The bill limits severely the scope of review to the extent that there is really no review.

Subsection 46(1) states: "...the exercise of the discretion of a head to disclose or refuse to disclose a record which is found to be included under an exemption...is not appealable." The effect of this subsection is to limit the information commissioner to review extensions of deadlines, fees, fee waivers and privacy matters. Why establish and fund a commissioner independent of government, similar in stature to the Ombudsman, and then strip him of his power by legislating that the refusal of a head of a ministry to disclose information cannot be appealed to that commissioner?

Without these powers, the fundamental principle of a workable freedom of information law and independent review is removed and the law is meaningless. The bill must be amended by deleting the words "or refuse to disclose" from subsection 46(1).

Further, unlimited de novo court review should be included in the bill. That matter was referred to by the member for Ottawa Centre. An appeal from the decisions of the information commissioner to the court system should be automatic and provided for within the bill. It is simply not sufficient to rely on the provisions of the Statutory Powers Procedure Act, which provides very limited times and conditions under which people may appeal the decisions of the commissioner; it is limited to strict criteria that are often difficult to meet in the court system.

The other side of the coin and the other matter dealt with in Bill 34 is that of the protection of individual privacy. As I indicated at the outset of my remarks, it has not usually been part of the same legislation as freedom of information in other jurisdictions; but as the two are so often in conflict, it makes good legislative sense to deal with them together to attempt to create the

dividing line and resolve the grey areas in one statute rather than in the courts, except as a matter of last resort.

Several basic objectives must be met to protect individual privacy. These are summarized in the Public Government for Private People report completed in 1980. They are as follows: (1) to encourage restraint and fairness in the collection of personal data by government; (2) to ensure that the public is aware of the existence and nature of government information containing personal data; (3) to give individuals the right to examine and correct records dealing with themselves; (4) to allow individuals to participate in decisions about the use and dissemination of personal information about themselves; (5) to establish data management standards to protect the integrity and security of personal information.

Bill 34 takes some steps towards meeting some of these objectives. For instance, under section 28, the person affected by the release of information must be given the right to make representations to convince the head–the person in whose hands is the decision to release or otherwise–not to release the record if release of that information is not in that person's best interests.

Further, many of the exemption sections are directed specifically to the need for personal privacy protection rather than the protection of government interests. For example, section 21 specifically prohibits disclosure of personal information except to the individual about whom the information relates, and except in very limited circumstance. The section determines how to decide whether there may be an invasion of privacy and how to determine when an invasion of privacy is presumed.

Notwithstanding these sections, much of the success of the individual privacy sections, and for that matter the entire bill, depends on the quality and integrity of the information commissioner. The adequate staffing of his office is most important; as is an awareness on his part that access delayed is access denied.

I suggest and argue that this is rather too much power to be put in the hands of one official. Therefore, judicial review as an automatic right, after an adverse determination by the information commissioner, is an important and necessary safeguard. Imposing a time limit on the information commissioner's work would also be an important safeguard.

I look forward to further detailed analysis of this bill and its far-reaching ramifications during committee deliberations. There is much that is good about the bill, as there was about Bill 80. However, there is great room for improvement in the areas I have mentioned in my brief remarks. I hope during the committee stages some of the suggestions I have mentioned will be incorporated by way of amendment and will receive the support of all members of the House.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I want to thank all honourable members who have participated for their contribution in this debate and, if the bill passes second reading, I look forward to their contributions in committee.

I must say I was particularly interested in the comments of the member for Carleton-Grenville, who has for a long time been interested in this subject and who has devoted a lot of time and study to it. I eagerly accept from him whatever criticisms are offered.

4:30 p.m.

If my old friend the member for Oakville represents the Conservative caucus, I cannot so graciously accept his comments. If there was ever a conversion on the road to Damascus, it is the comments of the member for Oakville, if he represents his party.

Speaking of independent judgement of what is to be permitted or not, the best bill producing the most independent judgement that the old Tories could produce was one which said the cabinet would decide everything about freedom of information. Only two years ago that was their view of an independent freedom of information bill. No respecting person in the House, no doubt including the member for Carleton-Grenville, could possibly have voted for it, and nobody did because I do not think it ever got called. It was a trash from beginning to end, and everybody recognized that.

However, there is nothing wrong with turning over a new leaf, and I am delighted to see that this is exactly what the Conservative caucus have done. Notwithstanding all the risks that are involved in letting people paw over 42 years of information, I am very grateful to have their support for this bill.

As usual, the suggestions made by the member for Ottawa Centre are helpful, but I think there will be some differences between us as she approaches the bill. She refers to poetry and purpose–those were her words, not mine. A bill is not a place, apart from the preamble, for a statement in poetic terms of purpose. That is what the statement introducing the bill is designed to do.

The bill is designed to create a system and, regrettably, systems are not poetic and are not the

place to reflect purpose. What we have attempted to do here is to define as precisely as one can the exemptions exactly as Dr. Carlton Williams recommended, so it would be understood by the reader that the balance of information in the government vaults would be disclosed.

With respect to this bill, I challenge my friends to produce any bill in the western world that is more progressive; that is to say that is more open with respect to freedom of information than this one. Indeed, some commentators have said it is the most open bill in the western democracies.

The second thing is that it follows very precisely with respect to exemptions the proposals of Dr. Carlton Williams, who did a two-year study on the subject that was very well received. In particular, the exemptions regarding law enforcement reflect his views very closely. When we get to committee, those who oppose the bill in that context will have to begin to grapple with the very refined balancing act that Dr. Carlton Williams's report reflects.

I very much look forward to the committee hearings and, like the honourable members, I hope we can make this a better bill.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Scott has moved second reading of Bill 34. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Hon. Mr. Scott: To the standing committee on administration of justice.

The Deputy Speaker: The justice committee.

Mr. McClellan: The standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions.

The Deputy Speaker: Fine. The procedural affairs committee?

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is a justice committee bill.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to cut anybody's grass, but the House leaders had an arrangement to send it to procedural affairs. Maybe we should follow the courtesies and allow the minister to direct it, but it may be that a motion redirecting it will be necessary.

The Deputy Speaker: If the Attorney General does not change it now, it can be changed later by motion.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, the House leader for the New Democratic Party has pulled rank on me because I do not know what my House leader has said. On the assumption that the House leaders have fixed the procedural affairs committee, I agree that it should go to the procedural affairs committee. I gather that all members will agree to a redirection if that is not the case.

Bill ordered for the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions.

TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION RECIPROCAL ACCESS ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting Actions arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions.

The Deputy Speaker: Does any honourable member wish to speak on the bill?

Mr. McClellan: Is the Attorney General not going to explain what it is all about?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I explained it earlier.

Mr. Sterling: I was waiting for that explanation as well. Having said that, this bill was introduced under the former government by the former Attorney General. The bill requires a person in one jurisdiction who is damaged by pollution arising in another jurisdiction to sue in the place where the damage occurs. This bill will permit the action to be brought in the place where the pollution arises, as between our province and other jurisdictions.

This was drafted by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. It is a bill which is very progressive in cutting down the legal technicalities that are associated with suing a responsible party for pollution. Our party, having introduced this legislation, will of course take credit for it. Also, we will support it on second reading.

Mrs. Grier: I, too, am going to support the bill on second reading, although I am not quite as enthusiastic about it as the member for Carleton-Grenville. Frankly, I think the bill is something of a toothless wonder. It purports to offer to citizens of other jurisdictions the same rights that citizens of Ontario have here with respect to the environment. The problem is that we do not have any environmental rights in this province; therefore, what we are giving to the people from other jurisdictions is not very much.

As has been said, the bill is the product of a committee of United States and Canadian legislators. It is designed to equalize rights. However, if in this province one does not have any standing to take an environmental case to court, I do not

know what the government is going to be offering to citizens of other jurisdictions who want to come here and take somebody in Ontario to court.

In this province, one does not have any right to class action on environmental issues. Only recently have we had legislation introduced that gives one the right to know about industrial contaminants and what is being used in industries in this province. We do not have any right to notice of the proposed control orders where contamination or pollution is occurring.

One does not have any right to protection for the award of court costs against an individual or groups that may have delayed or prevented something from occurring as a result of their environmental concerns. I am not sure what we are giving to the citizens of these other jurisdictions.

The other difficulty I have with the act is that while it mentions administrative tribunals, the administrative tribunals in this province do not have the right to examine the effects of their actions on jurisdictions beyond Ontario. Although a citizen of New York state could come here and appear before an environmental assessment board, that board in making its decisions would not be empowered to take into consideration the effects of that decision on residents of New York state. So why would one bother to come up and go through the hassle of appearing before an administrative tribunal such as that?

I would very much like to have seen the bill amended to include these kinds of provisions. In my discussions with the officials of the Attorney General's department, they said they felt very strongly that what we should pass is just the bare bones of the act which is also going to be passed in other jurisdictions.

That brings me to my third concern, which is the reciprocal nature of the act. In the legislation, there is a provision to designate jurisdictions that provide substantially equivalent access as does Ontario. There are very many jurisdictions that provide better access to their courts than we do here in Ontario; therefore, they are not likely to pass this piece of legislation because they do not need to pass it. If the Attorney General's department persists in the very narrow interpretation of what is a reciprocating jurisdiction, we shall not have achieved very much by the adoption of this legislation.

4:40 p.m.

Only three states have passed this legislation–Montana, Colorado and New Jersey–and only Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have passed it as provinces. Those are mostly victim jurisdictions. Manitoba passed it because of the Garrison water diversion and Prince Edward Island because of acid rain. The jurisdictions surrounding Ontario, where we would most likely wish our citizens to have access to courts–Quebec, Michigan and New York state–are unlikely to pass legislation because they already give citizens access to their courts and tribunals.

Therefore, by agreeing to second reading of this bill, I want to say to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) that I look forward in the very near future after the adoption of the legislation to a regulation, as provided for in the legislation, that will enumerate the jurisdictions that have not only passed similar legislation but that have also, in the opinion of the Ministry of the Attorney General, provided substantially the same right of access to Ontario citizens.

I want to put the Attorney General on notice that if this regulation is not forthcoming in the near future, I suspect questions will be asked as to when we might expect it and before which full moon it is likely to appear.

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is very nice to be put on notice and I will convey to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) that over the next couple of months there will be some break for him in the questioning he gets and that it will direct itself to me.

The reality under this bill is that whether a state is a state with comparable legislation is not going to be decided in the last analysis by any regulation but by the courts. Therefore, regulation would probably be idle and would not serve the purpose my honourable friend contemplates. However, she may rest assured that I will look into it and determine whether a regulation of the type she describes should be passed.

She commented very fairly that environmental rights in the province are limited. That is a comment she will direct to my colleague the Minister of the Environment. He will respond to her that while there are problems outstanding associated with certain proceedings and problems of class actions, there are a number of remedies that persons who are injured as a result of an environmental hazard can undertake in the province, such as commencing actions for injunctions, damages and so on. The legislation proposed is neither as far-reaching and remedial as the member for Carleton-Grenville thinks, nor as narrow and parochial as the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) thinks. I call it good Liberal legislation that comes somewhere between the two.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

Assistant Clerk: The order for third reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting Actions arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions.

Mr. McClellan: No, I do not think we will do it all in one day.

The Deputy Speaker: I did not hear what the House leader for the third party said.

Mr. McClellan: My objection is to passing more than one stage in one day. We can do this tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, I tried that once and it went quite nicely, but I should not try it again.

The Deputy Speaker: That is correct. It cannot go through.

The House recessed at 4:46 p.m.

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Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 10, 1986

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES (continued)

On vote 801, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Chairman: I cannot tell by my notes exactly where we left off last time. I presume the minister wants to take a seat at the front.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: When I reviewed the questions of my friend the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), I was very surprised. He was telling the people of this province that since I arrived I have not taken care of tourism. When I looked at the budget, between last year and this year there was close to $2 million more from this minister.

The ministry's direct tourism estimates are split into several cost centres in the overall budget. Because of the nature of tourism, there are many other ministry programs that affect this sector, such as highway construction, but total direct estimates by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines are almost $4.7 million, as follows:

Attraction facilities for 1985-86 is $1,443,000. Last year it was $1,449,000. Promotion and information this year is $1,694,000 compared to $643,000, so I do not know what the member is talking about.

The northern Ontario rural development agreement is $710,000 this year; last year it was $717,000. However, the northern Ontario regional development program this year is $828,000, and last year it was zero. Where was the Nordev he was talking about? He said I had no money for Nordev. Look at the results already.

In addition, our estimates contain $1.3 million for Kenora waterfront development, which is fully recoverable from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development.

Mr. Wildman: Did you say Kenora?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Yes, lucky Kenora. This ministry has substantially increased its spending on tourism in 1985-86.

It will undertake more than 50 projects in promotion and information, for a total of $1.7 million. This is an increase of $1 million over 1984-85 spending. In addition, the introduction of Nordev enabled a further commitment of $800,000 for tourism by the private sector.

There was a question from the member for Kenora about the mining and mineral resources budget and staffing. My staff is currently finalizing the details of the formal transfer of the staff and budget, which will take place on April 1 at the beginning of the next fiscal year. I cannot tell the member at this time what the numbers will be, but they are significant and they will be reported in detail in our 1986-87 estimates.

The only person who is officially on my staff is Dennis Tieman, and he is working closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources, along with Ron Urancart to finalize all the details of the transfer.

Then there were all those questions about how much it cost to change the name. First of all, there was the insignia: I did not like the colours, the yellow and blue. They were not too nice. It was like an Ontario Northland Transportation Commission bus or the old Star Transfer. So one way or another I favoured changing those colours, the same as those signs; and we had to add "Mines" on it. To date, on the two Toronto signs—and that was the big question—we have spent $2,500. The estimated cost for those 60 new signs with new colours—not red or blue, but a nice green and other colours—will be $28,000. We are going to have the mine, we are going to have a shaft, and we are going to have a tree on it, and it will be very nice.

All stationery, including all mining forms, will cost approximately $22,500. The cost is kept down because of use of labels over our existing stock. As we say to our friend in the third party, we are pushing fiscal responsibility and we are showing that tonight.

Mr. Wildman: I understand that during discussion of these estimates on Friday last, the member for Kenora commented that he was disappointed the deputy minister and the minister did not have at their fingertips the figures he was requesting. I suppose that is the reason for this

deluge of figures we have just received from the minister.

I must congratulate the minister for choosing green as the colour. It is very useful in that it means in future we will not have to change the colour, which is indeed fiscally responsible. I apologize to the minister for not being present during discussion of the estimates on Thursday evening and Friday morning, but the minister is fully aware the decision to change the schedule of the House was made suddenly Thursday morning and I had scheduled many weeks earlier to be in Blind River to debate–

Mr. Callaghan: Where was the member? He got a tan.

Mr. Wildman: A tan in Blind River? Hardly.

I had arranged to debate the question of free trade with the minister's federal colleague Dr. Maurice Foster, the member of Parliament for Algoma, and also with a representative of the Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, who unfortunately or fortunately, depending on how one looks at it, had to leave for Asia and therefore could not make it to Blind River.

I have looked very carefully at the Instant Hansard and gone over the discussion. If it is in order, I would like to respond under this vote to the responses the minister gave to the specific matters I raised in my leadoff, and then perhaps we can move into the individual votes and vote the estimates and deal with particular issues under each specific vote.

In his response, the minister indicated there was not that great a difference between the concerns he has and I have about northern Ontario, except that he described himself as being more optimistic than I. I have some disagreement with that point of view. I do not believe that in my leadoff remarks I was pessimistic. I did point out, as the minister had done himself on a number of occasions, the serious problems that we have in northern Ontario, but in the last part of my remarks I also suggested some specific things that should be done, some specific principles that I feel should be followed by this ministry in dealing with those problems; and I made a number of individual proposals.

Frankly, I am disappointed that the minister did not specifically respond to those proposals, other than to one I had made about the use of crown corporations by the government in trying to direct investment to redress some of the difficulties we have had with northern development in the past, particularly with one-industry towns.

The minister indicated that he thought I was too quick to criticize the private sector for the problems of northern Ontario. I do not quite understand who else I should criticize. I suppose I could criticize my colleagues to the right who were in power for 40-odd years but I really do not like to hit a guy when he is down. It is not nice to kick a guy when he is lying on the ground.

8:10 p.m.

I indicated in my leadoff remarks that the previous government did very little interfering–that is the term it would use; I would use a less pejorative term and call it "intervening"–in the marketplace. One could criticize them for doing little, but one could not criticize them for what they had done. I suppose that in the Anglican sense they were sins of omission rather than commission.

I understand that a number of the people under the gallery and one of minister's advisers right here served the previous government. I am not critical of them; after all they were just carrying out the wishes of the political leaders, the government of the day.

I do not see anyone to criticize other than those in the private sector in dealing with the problems of northern Ontario, because over the years it was the private sector to which decisions about investment in the north were left by the Conservatives. The private sector has chosen to take the profits that derive from resource extraction out of the north and has reinvested very little in the north. It is for that reason I was critical, not so much of the private sector but of the lack of political will on the part of the government to direct the private sector to ensure there was a greater return for northerners from the revenues that relate to resource extraction.

I do not think it was fair of the minister to characterize my comments as seeking scapegoats. I would never make Mr. Baird, the president of Inco Ltd., a scapegoat. I would never want to characterize the executives or board of directors of Falconbridge Ltd. or Abitibi-Price Inc. as scapegoats. I have been quick in the past to defend the private sector when I believed the government was being unfair to it. Under the Conservatives, that has not been often but on occasion they have been unfair to the private sector.

I remember when the president of Smooth Rock power and paper–is that what it is called?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Spruce Falls.

Mr. Wildman: Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd.

At the time the grants were being proposed for the pulp and paper companies, the president made a speech. He was an unreconstructed free enterpriser and he made a speech saying that as a free enterpriser he did not believe his company needed any of the grants for modernization of the pulp and paper industry. He felt the company could do what was necessary and what was required for the good of the company, the communities where it operated and its employees without government involvement. He went on at great length.

I raised this matter with the now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), who at that time was the Minister of Industry and Trade or Industry and Tourism, I cannot remember what it was called at that time. I defended this unreconstructed free enterpriser against the socialism of the Tory government in interfering in the marketplace and forcing these grants on the private sector.

When I read the speech, I found it interesting that the president went on at great length about how he did not believe the government should be involved and how it was unfair for the government to be handing out these grants to the private sector.

In the very last part of his speech he said, of course, that if the other companies were to get those grants, Spruce Falls would be in an uncompetitive position if it did not take a grant.

It just proves my point that interventionists such as the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) were forcing this free enterpriser to soil his hands with public money. It was most unfortunate. On that occasion I defended the private sector against government intervention. I do believe the government–these Tories who were the government for so long and became so complacent they believed whatever they thought was what should be done, even though the cooler heads in the private sector knew what they were doing was wrong–had lost its principles.

It reminded me of last May. When the election campaign was over and there were discussions among the three parties as to who might rule this province after the rather stalemated result, there was a throne speech. This Tory party under the previous leader, that red Tory–that is what I think they call them; mix red and blue and one gets a sick colour of purple–the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), brought in a throne speech so progressive it even suggested things like first-contract legislation.

After the negotiations were all over and there was a change in government, this Liberal government brought in something called first-contract legislation; however, by then the Tories had thrown out that red Tory, the member for Muskoka, and brought in a true-blue free enterpriser, the current Leader of the Opposition, who is now opposed to first-contract legislation. I recall when he was a minister of the crown he was forcing public money into the private sector against its will. That party is confused and does not understand. I do not want to criticize it.

To come back to the point, we have to look at the record of the private sector in northern Ontario to understand the problems of the north and realize what has been done. I do not think it is fair to say I am making a scapegoat out of the private sector. I am only a little member for Algoma. I do not have the kind of power to embarrass the great moguls of the private sector. They are far more powerful than I. If someone is to seduce them to accept public moneys when they do not want it, I suppose we are all weak at times.

The minister went on to say that he was interested in my proposal about crown corporations, since I do not believe we can depend solely on the private sector to reinvest in the north. For the last number of years we have been dependent on the private sector and the investments have not taken place.

The minister was quite correct when he said that over the years of the boom, when we were doing very well through resource extraction in the north, the private sector did not invest as much as it might have in processing and secondary manufacturing, where the jobs are. It is unlikely that now, in our recession, the private sector is going to make those investments. It is far less likely today, as it has been in the last couple of years, than it was in the 1960s. I do not believe we can say to the private sector, "Now, when you are in a profit squeeze, we expect you to make the kinds of investments you would not make when you were making money hand over fist."

8:20 p.m.

I said I thought we should consider the use of crown corporations, either by directly investing through them or entering into joint ventures with the private sector, to develop industries which are dependent on our resource strength in the north; to develop industries with both backward and forward linkages that would provide what is

needed to develop the potential mineral and forest wealth in the north, whether in mining machinery, which my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) talked about, or in forestry machinery, furniture manufacturing or whatever.

The minister said in his response that the experience with crown corporations elsewhere was not encouraging. I want to know what he bases that on. Does he base it on the experience of the Blakeney government or the Devine government in Saskatchewan? "Divine government" is a very strange term. That is what the Conservatives thought we had in Ontario for 40 years, if not the divine right of kings, then at least the divine right of Tories.

For those members who are not from northern Ontario, I can tell them that while we have tremendous strength and potential in the north, the minister and members of the Tory party from the north are aware that we also have a lot of problems that we should not have because of our strength and wealth. If anyone thinks everything is rosy in northern Ontario, maybe we should return to the system where we took members from southern Ontario up to the north and showed them not only the great beauty, strength and potential we have but also some of the serious problems we have.

Mr. McLean: We would love to look at the fish.

Mr. Wildman: One of the problems is we do not have as many fish as we used to, but that is another matter.

I want the minister to respond by saying on what basis he makes the comment that the experience of crown corporations elsewhere has not been encouraging. Perhaps on the advice of the deputy minister–and I do not want to be assuming too much–he is looking at the experience of the federal government with crown corporations. It might be useful to look at the record of a government that believes in crown corporations rather than at the record of a government that simply uses crown corporations when one of its private sector friends is losing money. I am not talking about nationalizing a loser. I am talking about developing crown corporations in which there is a chance to make a profit.

Mr. Guindon: Such as what?

Mr. Wildman: All the member has to do is look at the experience in Saskatchewan and he will know what I am talking about.

Mr. Hennessy: The Tory government.

Mr. Wildman: The Tory government in Saskatchewan has been attempting to sell off its crown corporations hand over fist because, since Devine came into power, they have suddenly discovered deficits. Under Blakeney, they did not have a deficit; they balanced the budget. Typically, Tory government means debt.

The minister also said in his response that the cabinet committee on northern development was developing a 10-year program for the north that will be announced in the near future and that we will see a plan for northern development coming from this government. I look forward to that. However, I want a little more clarification as to what the exact role will be of the regional development councils. I raised some concerns about them in my leadoff remarks.

In his response, the minister said the regional development councils will not be just reactive, but will also be proactive in that they will be making proposals to the government. He pointed to two of the councils that are already in the process of being organized.

I want to know a little bit more about how they will be named. From what groups is the minister seeking representation? Who is proposing the names? How will they be evaluated? Under what criteria will the minister determine what people should serve on these regional development councils? How long will their terms be? Generally, how will they be remunerated for their efforts and how will they report to the minister; it will be by a report for his use alone or will they be able to make public statements?

In that regard, just as an aside, the minister asked me to check with the township council of White River to find out what area it would like to be part of, the one to the west or the one to the southeast–Wawa towards Sault Ste. Marie. I checked with the reeve and he raised it with his council at its last meeting. They have informed me they would like to be part of the west. In other words, they would like to be grouped with the other communities, such as Marathon and Manitouwadge, that are affected by the Hemlo development.

In my remarks I pointed to two needs I saw in northern Ontario: the need for diversification and the need to stabilize the boom-and-bust cycle in the north. I am sure the minister understands those two needs. He puts a lot of emphasis on the need to stabilize the economy of northern Ontario, but he also has put a great deal of emphasis on obtaining ideas about how to do that from the committee of which I am a member. The member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce) is also

representated, as is the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin). The minister referred to that committee repeatedly during his response. I hope it will be able to live up to his high expectations. I am not about to cast doubt on those expectations, but the committee has been given a very wide mandate and it has a big job to do.

I understand the committee is going to be going to Quetico Centre and will be meeting with representatives of Atikokan, Ignace and Ear Falls to try to gain from their experiences, both good and bad, some input with regard to stabilizing the economy of a resource-dependent, one-industry town. In the future, I hope we will be travelling to some centres in the northeast to gain from their experience.

This is all part of the minister's attitude that we should have more input from the north. I accept and agree with that. We should have more input from northerners; not just people in government but also business people and labour and community representatives. However, I am not certain we are going to be able to come up with the new initiatives on which the minister seems to be counting. I hope we will be able to do that, but I will leave that as it is.

The minister gave a response to the Fahlgren report, as I had requested, and listed a number of things the government had done. I will refer to only two of them briefly, because it is not necessary for me to go over all of them at this time. The minister talked about the forestry program and mentioned the seedling nurseries and the program the government has been carrying on to try to produce more stock for the forests.

8:30 p.m.

The minister knows what I am going to raise. The standing committee on public accounts effectively proved the point I was attempting to make about the previous government and its approach to the distribution of the seedling nurseries, despite what the former minister had to say during his appearance at that committee.

Since that committee had its hearing, the minister's colleague, the Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), has indicated to me that he would like to discuss the matter further. I hope this minister will prevail upon his colleague to reconsider the decision made by the former minister against following the wishes of his staff and locate a nursery in the Wawa-Dubreuilville area.

I am disappointed by the reponse I got from the minister to my previous inquiry by letter. He said in effect: "We had only so much money for these nurseries. While you are quite right and it should have been located in the Wawa-Dubreuilville area, the money has already been spent in another location and we do not have any more money for a nursery in that area."

The minister has admitted there is a tremendous need for seed stock in the north. It would be useful to look at that again and to consider the allocation of funding for that nursery.

The minister also indicated a number of things about responding to Fahlgren's comments on environmental assessment. There was an announcement today by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) with regard to forestry and environmental assessment.

I would like to know specifically what this minister's position is on the spraying program of the Ministry of Natural Resources. While I recognize it is not part of his responsibility, obviously as Minister of Northern Development and Mines and as the only member of the cabinet from northern Ontario, he must have some influence on the decisions that are being discussed about spraying in northern Ontario.

An announcement was made in the Sault Ste. Marie media today that there are a large number of hectares in the Wawa area where bacillus thuringiensis will be sprayed this summer. I support the Bt spraying program because we have to do something about the budworm and Bt was effective last year. I would like to know what the minister's position is with regard to the spraying of Bt as opposed to chemicals such as fenitrothion and madisil.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The words are too big for me. Tell me in French; I do not understand those words.

Mr. Wildman: I do not know what fenitrothion is in French. It is probably the same.

I do not want to raise the concerns of the people in the north, but the minister knows these kinds of chemicals have been sprayed in New Brunswick for some 20 years and they still have the budworm problem in New Brunswick. It could be argued that the problem might be worse if they had not been spraying, but there also have been serious concerns raised about possible side-effects on the people in the areas where the spraying has been taking place.

The minister also responded in his remarks to my comments about the change of name of the ministry. I was not raising the matter in relation to the cost of changing the signs, as my colleague the member for Kenora was; I was raising it in the context of an actual change of direction or a cosmetic change. The minister assured me it was

not just a change of name and that it actually meant more than that.

He said in his remarks that I had said it was just a change of name and nothing more. I did not say that. I think the minister missed the fact that when I raised it I was quoting from an editorial in the Thunder Bay newspaper. However, I do wonder whether there is a change of direction. No matter what the minister says, when we are looking at the estimates at this time next year we will have a better idea of whether it is actually a change of direction.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Tourism.

Mr. Wildman: Since the minister raises the issue of tourism, he also mentioned Minaki Lodge in his response to my remarks. He said there was no use in dwelling upon the problems of the past; we should look to the present and the future and the occupancy rates at Minaki were improving.

I welcome the fact that occupancy rates are going up in that lodge, but I think it would be useful, in talking about the future, for the minister to make clear to us the view of his ministry with regard to the possible privatization of Minaki. After all, there is a gentleman under contract to the government who is going around looking at a number of the crown assets and trying to determine whether or not they should be sold. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) has commented that if Minaki were to be sold it would be at a substantial loss to the public treasury. I would like to know this minister's view with regard to the future of Minaki and how it should be operated.

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: I think it very strange that any Tory would make funny remarks about Minaki. They got themselves into such a hole on Minaki that they did not know how to get out. They started out by trying to save a loss of $500,000 and ended up investing $20 million or $30 million.

These are the people who for so long have characterized themselves as being good managers, understanding business concepts and knowing how to run the province. If there is any evidence of that in Minaki, I would like to find it. I hope the minister will not fall into the same trap as the previous government in throwing good money after bad to try to improve Minaki.

I would like to know whether there is a future for Minaki Lodge. Can it break even? Can it make a profit? If it can, according to the minister, how is that profit calculated? Is it calculated in regard to the capital cost or is he ignoring the capital cost and just looking at the operational cost?

Mr. Sargent: The member for Rainy River stays there every weekend.

Mr. Pierce: That is right. I take all my friends too.

Mr. Wildman: I would also like to know from the minister exactly how many local jobs have been produced at Minaki as a result of that enormous investment of the taxpayers' dollars by the previous government. How many of those local jobs are permanent, year-round jobs and how many of them are seasonal? Of the seasonal jobs, what is their average length of time?

The minister made one interesting comment with regard to the boom-and-bust cycle. In my remarks I have been more than a little critical in that I had thought the minister was basically accepting the boom-and-bust cycle in the northern Ontario economy. The minister said—and I think I am quoting correctly—"Surely the member is not suggesting that the government of Ontario can control the international commodity prices." Frankly, that is a silly comment. The minister knows very well I was not suggesting the Ontario government can control the international commodity prices.

Having said that, I do not think that means we should say those of us in northern Ontario communities, the mining communities in particular, are forever doomed to move from an enormous expansion of employment to the disastrous cuts in employment that we have endured over the years.

8:40 p.m.

In my remarks, and the minister should understand this, I said the way to try to deal with these kinds of changes in the international market is to ensure that a greater percentage of the revenue from resource extraction is reinvested in the community to develop a viable economic base so that when the international market threatens employment in the primary sector, other jobs are developed in the community that will mean the community has a future.

So that in contrast to the Ear Falls experience or the Atikokan experience, we can say to the people of Wawa that just because there is a glut of iron ore on the world market today does not mean the 25 years of ore that is left in the ground will stay in the ground and the community of Wawa will disappear, but that there is some other hope for the development of jobs in Wawa. If there is not, if the minister believes that there is not and that we are simply and solely dependent on the

international commodity situation, he should state so clearly in this House.

The minister said he believed in a co-operative effort between the public and private sectors. That is what I believe in too. The minister said I was suggesting he should have a heavy hand. I said he should have a heavy hand if that was necessary. I do not believe it should be necessary, if we have a government that has clearly stated its position that there should be a greater return to northerners, benefiting northerners. I suggested the establishment of a crown corporation that would get involved in joint ventures with the private sector; in my view, that is a co-operative approach.

In regard to the other primary resource sector that we are dependent on in northern Ontario, the forestry sector, I am disappointed in what the minister had to say about the so-called independent forestry audit. He suggested I should talk to Dr. Baskerville because, in the minister's view, Dr. Baskerville is very happy with the time frame he has been given and is confident he is going to be able to do an adequate audit.

I have not had the opportunity of discussing it with Dr. Baskerville, but I know my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) has. In my view, the professor is confident he can meet the mandate he has been given because the mandate is too narrow. He is looking, as we have said, at the forestry figures of the Ministry of Natural Resources; he is not going to be able to go into the field and adequately audit what is in the bush. I will not belabour that point, because it has been made well in the past.

The minister said his government does not believe in development by edict or by imposing solutions; he believes in consultation and co-operation. I do not suppose anyone believes in development by edict unless he is Baby Doc Duvalier, and look where he is today. I have said all along that I support consultation and co-operation, and I have congratulated the minister on his attempts to consult with northerners. However, I have also said it might be easier to consult with northerners and to get input from them if the government would make clear what we are consulting about.

The government should make some proposals and say: "These are the options we are looking at. These are the proposals we are making. What do you think?" That would be a better approach than going out to people and saying: "Okay. Have you got any ideas?" I encourage the minister to make some concrete proposals for development in the north so the regional development councils could respond to them. It would be more productive both for the government and for the regional development councils.

The minister basically ended off by saying he saw his role and that of the government as encouraging a good investment climate in northern Ontario. I am not surprised the minister would make that kind of comment, but I must say it is no different from the kind of rhetoric we have been getting from Tories for years in this House. People such as the member for Kenora and the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) have been talking about the development of a good investment climate. The climate in northern Ontario is still as cold and harsh as it has always been.

I do not know how the climate of investment has changed, despite all the rhetoric from members of the Conservative Party, and I do not know how this minister is going to change it by mouthing those same platitudes over again. Even the amount of hot air we produce here does not affect the climate in the north; it just affects the climate in Queen's Park. I will not contribute to it any more at this time.

I hope the minister will respond to my questions and concerns and then, as I said, it will be useful to continue through the individual votes. I have a number of matters I want to raise on specific votes through the estimates.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Suivant aux questions de mon ami le député d'Algoma (M. Wildman), I too believe the private sector will reinvest in the north if it sees good opportunities and has the money. What the honourable member is saying is correct; there were some boom years and then the investments went elsewhere. Today, however, we have to face the fact that this is 1986 and the profits are not there. However, together, as I told the member when I made all my trips to the north, we have to protect what we have. At the same time, we have to look at other initiatives and activities–good ore bodies and aggressive junior mines, and the larger companies that were ready to finance the venture; we need more of these. That is the reason I instructed the committee to study junior mine financing in this province. I intend to create a framework for more positive partnership for development in the north.

As a businessman, I can say that we worked with the government and we used the grants that were available at that time. However, as I mentioned to the member for Sudbury East, it is all right to talk about crown corporations and perhaps half and half in the north, but we are forgetting the labour sector.

I would like to see the labour sector in the north get involved, and I wish the unions would understand that. I have been talking about that since 1972. At that time, I was told by Mr. Brixhe that the Ontario Federation of Labour is not prepared to do that. I met with Mr. Brixhe again last week in my office; we had breakfast together. He said Mr. White had just said about the Urban Transportation Development Corp. that those people usually do not go into that kind of venture.

We have to look at Quebec because it is doing it. The Fédération des travailleurs du Québec is one of the most militant unions. We see its members on television all the time calling for a strike. When I was a young man in Hearst with my first TV, there on the six o'clock news was a young Claude Charron, who later became the member for St. Jacques. He was about 16 years old and he was a very militant member of the FTQ. He was always on television with Mr. Laberge or Mr. Pepin.

About two years ago, Mr. Laberge formed the solidarity fund with the province and with the federal government. The federal government put in about $10 million about eight months ago, and we were told that $10 million could be available for Ontario if and when the unions were ready to join forces.

8:50 p.m.

I do not want to brag, but I started to look at new industries in the north in 1956 when I got out of school. I revived the chambers of commerce in Hearst, Longlac, Geraldton, Beardmore, Macdiarmid, Smooth Rock Falls and Iroquois Falls. We went after the province at that time to get an economic council for that area and we had won the battle, but Mr. McKeough decided there would not be one and the government cancelled it at that time.

My company has been unionized since 1955. If we are going to see the small and medium-sized companies survive, and if by a fluke we go into free trade and do not get labour peace, productivity and quality, we are going to be in deep trouble.

I am saying that sincerely about the north. When I come back from my holidays, I am going to try to meet with Mr. Pilkey. I ask my friend to try to arrange a meeting. I would like to discuss this. I am ready and prepared through the northern Ontario regional development program, Nordev, to give a new direction. If the workers get involved, maybe we will get that; I say "maybe" because I need backing from the unions. In the north, lots of unionized companies are coming in, but some are not unionized.

I would like their backing so we get involved together, because if we do not–there is a reason why in Quebec, just before the election Mr. Landry, who is writing a book now, came out in favour of free trade. He was building the economy there by involving labour in those companies; 107 companies in two years. They are investing in viable companies, such as Thibault and Waferboard; but they not buying the old company, they are putting in money when the company was prepared to expand.

We are going to have to look into this, especially in northern Ontario. We should have co-operation like that with labour and private enterprise.

On crown corporations, my honourable friend talks about Saskatchewan. I can talk about Quebec too. It is not only the feds. The Quebec one–I am not talking about Asbestos; I am talking about Sogfor and Rexfor. This Rexfor company has pushed almost all the private sawmills out of business in Quebec. They are competing with private enterprise in Ontario. That is very dangerous.

I was in favour of that when the Liberals in Ottawa did it. In my own heart, probably I would like to look into that, but I do not want to. I repeat that I do not want the government to do it alone, I want it to be tripartite; and if we go to tripartite, probably we could have success, such as with the Urban Transportation Development Corp.

I asked people and I talked to labour. I said we should join the three together, but at the end somebody said they would not go. I was told it was one of the union presidents. I am not here to judge, but that is what I was told.

However, there is a role for crown corporations in the north and one that reports to me is the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. I want to see it even more an instrument of public policy. I told the member and I told his Liberal friend last Friday that right now Ontario Hydro is the key. I want Hydro support and I got backing from the Premier on it.

Last weekend we had lunch with the new president and the chairman of Hydro and we mentioned that Hydro should be and has to be part of the economic tools in northern Ontario. Otherwise, if they are not there, if those two are not prepared to act, as a government we will have to make some change in the act so that those crown corporations will be good co-operative participants in the north. They have to form an

integral part of development or we could have trouble.

The biggest question concerns private versus public corporations. I say again that workers, management, investors and government can work together. That is one promise I am making. I am going to fight for this.

I have already met the president of the union. I have already talked to Mr. Rivard and the one at Lambert Sawmills in Thunder Bay, Mr. Guiron. I am prepared to meet others. I am convinced that is the only way the small and medium-sized companies in the north are going to survive in the long term. For this, I need this climate of labour and management working together. It is up to the third party and the official opposition, but especially the third party, to help me. If Quebec could do it when it had a government party that looked like the New Democratic Party, the NDP should get involved with us and try to give a new direction with our unions. As members know, the unions are not all voting NDP or Conservative; some are voting for Liberals. In my riding, I think I had a few votes from union members.

As for the regional development councils, I have to admit I am not yet at liberty to disclose all the details such as payment of members. Cabinet will review my proposal in the next few weeks. I will make all the information available. I have already prepared a general paper on RDCs which I am sending to groups in the north to have them decide on their participation, and I will provide a copy of that paper to my friend.

As for the selection of members, I will choose a list of nominees from groups to ensure that sectors and people in individual regions are fairly represented. I will have ideas to put to the RDCs to get their advice on them. In addition, I know I will get good ideas from them. I have great faith at this point. As in the case of Thunder Bay, I will be asking individuals from the labour movement, chambers of commerce, independent businessmen, educators, municipalities, women's groups and natives. The RDCs, again, are a cross-section.

On the length of the mandate, one reason I went away from municipal advisory committees was that they were working very well in the east. I will not name names, but members will recall there was a chairman of a few years ago under whom MAC worked in the east. I am not talking about the west; it was very bad. However, most of the members sitting in the east, for example, Mr. Martin, lost the election. We need individuals other than politicians.

We will also try to have a system of staggering so that five or six stay and six move on. That way at least we have continuity. I am working from my experience as a businessman and as a politician. That is why I am asking the town councils of northern Ontario to form their own corporations for public housing and for development of economic co-operation. I feel we need that to have continuity. In that way the town is responsible for replacing those people. Again, as far as the regional development councils are concerned, I am suggesting to the towns, as the member saw when he was with me, that we are prepared to help towns of a fair size to organize themselves in economic corporations and to give them leadership in this area too.

9 p.m.

Regarding the privatization of Minaki, this government is prepared to sell Minaki Lodge; in fact, we would prefer to see it in private hands. However, whether or not we sell it, we want to be satisfied that it will continue to make a significant economic contribution to the northwestern region. I am told there are 237 direct seasonal jobs at Minaki, with 12 permanent jobs. In addition, there are three spinoff jobs in Kenora in the service sector.

On the spraying program, the member has spoken on this in the House before. I have spoken on it, and I am going to speak on it in cabinet. That is the line I am using. I never went public on it. I have my own feeling, but I am going to discuss it in cabinet. As the member says, I will be listening to northerners. I do not know all the names he mentioned, but I want to tell him those forests in the north have to survive. I said the bacillus thuringiensis was good last year, but other experts say it was not that good; so we have to take that into consideration.

We were talking about spruce budworm before. We were seeing that in little patches. Two years ago, north of Highway 11, there was none; now that area is full of spruce budworm. That is where I used to cut timber, but I put that interest in a blind trust. Everything north of Highway 11 is full now. Then it was up there a year ago. We had a patch near Hornepayne. We had a patch over here or over there. Wherever there is cutting, between Chapleau and Hearst, the average now is five cords per acre. How long can we go? I will reserve my decision in cabinet.

I remind my friend that we are going to be looking at the social side too. The deputy minister is circulating a statement on priorities. In those priorities, we touch on tourism. First, we are looking at the problem in northern Ontario

and we are addressing it. That will be a base for the regional development councils, but first we have to sell those ideas to the other ministries and to the deputy minister.

As the member knows, there was a change in government, but some people still think northern Ontario is barren. That is the thing we have to fight. My deputy minister and the staff of my ministry are doing that. There are a lot of new people, but there are people who have been there for a long time; they think northern Ontario is, as Voltaire said of Quebec, un arpent de neige. As I told my friend today in regard to housing, "It is a new ministry, and we have to show them what the north is all about."

On housing, last year the previous government announced 32 senior citizen units for the area from North Bay to Hearst. Imagine that. We waited for 14 of those 800-square-foot homes. We are still waiting in Hearst. We have the plans. We spent more than $120,000, and we waited all that time for 14 houses. All the nonprofit units went to the big cities. When it came to the end of the line, to places such as Hornepayne, Wawa and Blind River, there was nothing left. However, I was assured by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) that he is going to take a good look at the north. There was a little argument on Friday about North Bay, but North Bay will get its housing.

I will leave it at that. I hope we can work together with labour, with companies and with government to form a new north.

Mr. Lane: A couple of weeks ago when the critics had made their points and the minister was about to respond, I asked for permission to speak and the minister chose to reply to the critics. Unfortunately, I was not available in the House last Friday and I see we are now on vote 801. As I understand it, from being here 15 years, on the first vote it is pretty wide-ranging and we normally can pretty well cover whatever we have interest in. Is that a fact, sir?

Mr. Chairman: It can go one of two ways. Either we can stay on vote 801, item 1, the entire time and range wherever members wish, or apportion the time so we go through each vote and item specifically. It is tending to be the habit to range widely throughout the entire time.

Mr. Lane: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the fact that you have given me this opportunity to respond to some of the points the minister made on January 10 when he started his estimates in this House.

Before going on, I should tell the minister some of the things that my friend the member for Algoma forgot to mention. Back in 1976, following the election, the New Democratic Party had nine seats in northern Ontario, we had four seats and Liberal Party had one, which was Rainy River, held by the Liberal-Labour member. We now look after that but now Cochrane North is Liberal; so nothing is much changed except that now we have nine seats and they have four.

Back then, I was promoting a Ministry of Northern Affairs and the party to my left was very much opposed to having a Minister of Northern Affairs. The record will show members that.

Mr. Wildman: I would have been in favour of it if the member for Algoma-Manitoulin had been the minister. The fact was that he was not the minister.

Mr. McClellan: That is right. We insisted on the member for Algoma-Manitoulin.

Mr. Lane: So be it. Even the former leader of that party decided to take me to task one morning in this House. I can remember the cartoon in the Sudbury Star the next day, saying: "Minister of Northern Saskatchewan, Minister of Northern Ontario. If it works here, why does it not work there?" He was standing on his head in a sand box and I was standing there with two placards.

So my colleagues of the day, who my friend the member for Algoma forgot to mention, referred to me as the father of the Minister of Northern Affairs, and I have been very proud of my son. Over the years this gentleman, the Minister of Northern Affairs, has done great things for us. Even though the minister has decided that he should change the name to Northern Development and Mines for political purposes or whatever reason I am not aware of, I still feel I am the father of this ministry. Without my efforts with the former Premier, the Honourable William G. Davis, the minister probably would not be sitting here and maybe I would not be standing here.

Mr. Wildman: Is the member proud of the fact?

Mr. Lane: As an older man in this assembly, I feel quite proud of the fact that whatever the minister calls himself, I am the father of whatever it is.

Mr. Wildman: Is this a legitimate birth?

Mr. Lane: In all fairness, I will have to admit that since we changed places last June, the minister has followed through and I think he is doing a commendable job in northern Ontario. We are not playing politics here at all; we are just

playing straight facts. I wanted to put the record straight because my friend and colleague the member for Algoma did not make that point about 1976.

Mr. Wildman: If I had known it meant that much to the member, I might have.

9:10 p.m.

Mr. Lane: He admits that now.

Going back to the minister's statement of January 10 when we opened these estimates, on page 7 he is talking about the northerners and about their quality. He winds up by saying: "From my experience, northern people are hard workers. They are independent, entrepreneurial and want to stay in the region. They will not move away from the north unless there is no alternative."

The minister is right on. I am a northerner. I am proud to be a northerner. I do not intend to move away from the north. The minister can give us those alternatives, because over the years we basically have had to depend on the Northern Ontario Development Corp. to supply funding for whatever industry an entrepreneur may decide he should create or help create in northern Ontario.

If a young chap coming out of university wants to go into business in northern Ontario, whether it be the tourism business or whatever, it may cost $250,000. He and his father may be able to come up with about $50,000, but he has to go to NODC, apply for a loan and agree to pay that back over a period of time.

He is the only guy on the line. The government should think of joint venture projects. If this man has a good proposal that is going to cost $250,000 and he can put $50,000 on the line, then the government should come in with the other $200,000 and follow the money with management.

I have been here a long time and this is what happens. I see it happening. Some guy comes out and looks at someone else who has been a success. He says, "By God, I want to do that." He makes an application and gets his money but he does not know how to manage it. So he loses his money, the government loses its money, and everybody is unhappy.

If the government were to go into a joint venture with that chap, it could follow its money with some management for three or four years, whatever time it takes to make it into a profitable operation. Then it could back out and take its money and he is the owner; but he is going to be successful. The government has not lost any money, he has not lost any money, and we have the jobs in northern Ontario. That is why I agree with the minister that entrepreneurs in northern Ontario have no reason to leave the north. They should not have to leave the north, because the opportunity is there. It is up to the minister to make that possible. I think he can and will.

I would like to go to page 23 of the minister's statement on January 10. He said: "Another step we have taken to give northerners more control over their own economy is the creation of the committee on resource-dependent communities. The committee, under the chairman" so-and-so, will report back and tell us how we are going to resolve this one-industry problem.

The minister is on the right track. There is no question about that. He and I both know that in northern Ontario the problem is that we have one-industry towns. If the mineral or whatever runs out we have a big investment there and people want to stay there, but there is nothing left for them.

I wish the minister and his committee every success. He is on the right track. Again, we shall have to help finance those secondary industries that are going to take the pressure off the one-industry towns. There are a lot of opportunities. We have resources that are not being used.

As I pointed out earlier, the trouble is that when a young guy comes out of university he does not have the money that is required to invest in these opportunities that will provide secondary industries in towns such as Espanola or Elliot Lake in my riding, or many other towns in northern Ontario. He has to have some support from the government. Again, I suggest a joint venture is the right way to go. The government can supply the additional capital and the management to make sure it will be a successful venture. Then we would have a man who had invested his money wisely employing people in northern Ontario, and the government would get its money back. I think we have answered that problem.

Turning to page 43, we are talking here about world tourism growing fast and we want to make sure that Ontario increases its market share. I could not agree more with the minister. According to the information I had when I was parliamentary assistant to the then Minister of Industry and Trade in the better years—as I like to refer to them—our statistics indicated that by the year 2000 the hospitality industry would be the largest industry in the world. If that is the case, we have to grab our piece of it right now.

I have to agree with the minister that in my part of the world there is nothing that will to enhance

our economy more than getting involved in the tourism business, but there are problems. One of the problems is that when our tourists come to visit us during their holidays they like to drive on nice roads. We have some problems with the roads in my riding, and I am sure in the minister's riding and in many other ridings in the north. We have to improve the roads.

Not too many years ago, I brought in a private member's bill that said tourist operators who operate only four or five months of the year should have some kind of tax rebate. Even though this House was in support of that motion, it never came to pass. If we are to encourage people to get into the tourism business, which is a very short season at this point, we have to look at the benefit of giving them some tax relief because they invest their money and have only three or four months a year to recoup some return on that investment.

Beyond that, one of the most important things to do is improve the fishing in northern Ontario. Not everybody fishes, but for the majority of the tourists who come to the north, number one on the agenda is fishing. Over the years, our fishing has not improved, and in my area it has become somewhat depleted.

When we look at what our Minister of Natural Resources is doing to restock the fishing in the north and when we look at Michigan, which is right across the other side of Lake Huron, we see it has a multimillion-dollar fishery and here we are just stumbling around wondering whether we should or should not, whether the water is too cold, too hot, too shallow or too deep or whatever the hell the problem is. They solved the problem for us. We now are catching the salmon on our side that were planted on the other side of Lake Huron.

What are we doing? We are still standing with our hands in our pockets; we have not taken any initiative. That is a multimillion-dollar industry in northern Ontario. We should not have to depend on Michigan putting some fish in the water and hope they are going to swim across to the other side of Lake Huron, but that is what is happening right now.

We are benefiting from their experience. I hope the minister will look at that and talk to his friend the Minister of Natural Resources and make damned sure we start to plant those species. We talk about the water being too cold or too hot, too shallow or too deep, or whatever, but in Michigan they have proved that is not the case and they are able to offer their tourists a variety of fishing. It is a multimillion-dollar program in Michigan; why can we not have it in the Ontario? There is no reason. It is the same lake and we are on the other side of it.

9:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to tax you beyond the point of no return, but I would like to turn to page 54 for a moment. We are talking about agriculture in the north, the difficulty that is facing the farmers, the best prices and so forth.

The minister should talk to his colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). I have asked him a few questions in the House in the last few weeks. I am sure the Minister of Northern Development and Mines will agree that the basic red meat production in the north is the cow-calf operation, basically because we are working on marginal farm lands and we can produce a lot of pasture for the cow-calf operation in the summertime. We have to produce some hay to get them through the winter, but we are not a grain-growing country.

The minister has told me there is no help for the cow-calf operator in the north for 1985 production; yet if we look to the provinces in western Canada, all of the provincial governments in western Canada have cow-calf support operations.

I am sure the minister will agree with me, both of us being the family men we are, that the project starts with the baby. If we have no baby, we have no program. If we have no calf, we have no beef industry; yet just a couple of weeks ago the minister said if a chap bought some cattle and kept them for 60 days or more, he is entitled to cash in on the stabilization agreement that has now been signed by the federal government. That is for 60 days or more.

The cow-calf operator has to keep that heifer calf for at least three years before she has a calf and another year before he can sell the calf. We are talking about three or four years of money being invested. He is paying out big money for fertilizer, seed grain, gasoline and all of the other things he needs to run his farm for four years.

A guy can buy a cattle beast that weighs 1,000 pounds, keep it for 60 days and be entitled to some support on the stabilization program; but the poor guy who has had his money invested for three or four years is left out in the cold.

I have more than enough farmers phoning and saying, "I will go and work for somebody else because there is a lot less hassle over there." If we have no cow-calf operation, then we have no beef program in this province because it all starts with the baby. It always has and always will.

I will not ask the indulgence of the House for much longer. There is one other remark I would like to make on the minister's original statement in the House, in which he said, "I intend to use part of the northern development fund to provide financial assistance to the native economic development activities."

I have eight Indian reservations in my riding, and these people are very clever people. They have not had the opportunity to move ahead the way they should have. We will have to talk to the federal people because basically it has been between the federal people and the native people, but for one reason or another they have not been able to cash in on the opportunities that we and other people have.

One of the reasons that comes up every time I make an application for native people for a tourist grant or for a grant to develop some industry is that they do not have a deed to their property, it is only leased. The minister and I know that is the name of the game. On the reserve one does not get a deed to one's property, it is leased. The band has approved that this piece of property belongs to a person for his or her lifetime and he or she can go ahead and use it.

Unfortunately, we have been using that against the native people and saying, "We cannot very well give you a grant or a loan because you do not own the property you are now living on." I am saying that a lease on an Indian reservation is the same as a deed in other places and I do not think we should discriminate against our native people for that purpose.

In recent weeks I had an application from an Indian reservation for some assistance to develop a tourist operation, a trailer park, a convenience store and all the other things tourists expect to have when they are in our part of the world. I have also had an application for some assistance to start a shingle mill.

Cedar cannot be used for pulpwood, but in my part of the province, and I am sure in others, there is an abundance of cedarwood; yet to my knowledge, we are not producing any commercial shingles or shakes in northern Ontario. We are buying them all from Quebec or British Columbia. These are all produced with union labour and there is a cost of transportation to Ontario or to my riding. Surely we should support the people who would like to get into the business and be competitive with Quebec or BC. We have the resources. All we need is some assistance to the entrepreneurs who want to do something but have not got the kind of dollars it takes to put this into operation.

I appreciate your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, in allowing me to make these comments on the minister's original statement under vote 801. I would like the minister's response.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: To comment on the joint venture, in reply to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, the idea has merit. We will be reviewing the northern Ontario regional development program and programs of the Northern Ontario Development Corp. through the committee of ministers for northern development. We will have our first meeting tomorrow with the ministers, but the deputy ministers have been meeting for a long time.

We are working together to be sure that NODC and my own new Nordev will be open to joint ventures, not only in this direction but also together with the new deputy minister and my staff and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology; we are looking at other areas. We want to make sure the entrepreneur has a real stake in the success of his ventures.

I go along with my friend from Algoma-Manitoulin when he says that probably in the past we missed a few places where we could give money to entrepreneurs. I do not want to name names, but there was one who was a very good inventor, a good welder, but when he had all the money from the province and the feds he became the manager and it did not work out.

Seven years ago I went to a seminar in Port Carling where about 10 people sat looking at all the programs from all provincial governments. Most of them went belly up because there were no managers. I shared that with my deputy minister a few months ago. When the people from Nordev come to my office, we will probably have to look from now on when we give an amount of money to be sure the entrepreneur who works with his hands stays where he should. Maybe we should give him the money to hire a good manager. I am going to take that into consideration because I have had the same feeling in my mind since the late 1970s.

9:30 p.m.

On tourism, I do not know whether you were here, Mr. Chairman, or the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. My ministry this year is putting up $4,675,000 compared to $1,859,000 last year. We are proving we are serious about tourism. That is only the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

When my friend the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) was in Elliot Lake last week he told the people about his budget. I do not know, but somebody said the amount of money

for tourism was lower, but that is not true. It may seem lower because probably there was some other thing that was in it.

It is like mine. They took away some. If I do not buy those double-deckers, they will take away $10 million.

The money from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is there and we are putting more there too. It is to show members we are serious and I am serious when I talk about tourism. It is going to help us probably to bridge what we have today and what is coming tomorrow. We need all this to survive.

Last Friday I visited the area of Mattawa and North Bay. I saw some nice skiing. This is the kind of attraction I am speaking of. Sometimes I am accused of giving too much hope to the people. I am not giving too much hope. I said the people in northern Ontario and the tourist people need an attraction for skiers. We are going to look seriously into this. This is an issue we have to look at and try to develop. In summer we need other attractions, such as the zoo at Earlton, where this year 29,703 people visited. We need more attractions like that. We are going to have to help them to add those attractions.

The future of tourism will be families travelling and we need those attractions for those people. I am referring to my nice Polar Bear Express. I want to assure members and my friend from the island that one of these days we are going to have a real polar bear in Moosonee because people go there to see a polar bear. There is no polar bear. People go there to see James Bay. They cannot see James Bay.

There are only a few things made by the Indian and native people and the rest is made in Japan or Hong Kong. From now on I am going to give money only to people to add a tourist store where I am sure they will sell products from the area or from Ontario. This is one thing I am saying I will try and do and I am serious about it.

As far as the roads are concerned, I am glad this question was asked of me by a good friend of mine, because when I looked at the budget not too long ago, I did not say to him I was in fairly good shape. I could not understand why they let those roads of northern Ontario go down the tube like that. I was told by the people from Ministry of Transportation and Communications that just to hold our own in northern Ontario we need $10 million more. That was not in their budget, the budget they made.

This year, without arguing with Management Board or Treasury, I added $3 million more; but I am going to go back to try to get at least another $5 million to $6 million to try to hold our own. I was told that has been going on for about 20 years in northern Ontario.

If we look at the budget of the province, it was $225 million or $235 million before, but last year it was $146 million. They said they gave us everything.

Mr. Wildman: That is Conservative restraint for you. That is what Conservative restraint did for the province.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Do not laugh about those roads in northern Ontario. How many times have members been to northern Ontario? That is the truth. Look at Bending Lake where they spent $23 million. Ask my friend the member for Rainy River. However, there was no end at the end. Now I look at their program. Do members know when Bending Lake will be finished? In 1992. Is that very good planning? By that time they will have spent $30 million and still it will have no exit. We will try to push that up from 1992 to 1987. That is a commitment. I do not make promises.

People in the south take their highways for granted; but we will have to ask how are we going to get out of Toronto in the near future. People in the south should tell me how they will get out of their towns to go to the airport. The previous government let those budgets go.

Maybe I am only a small jobber from Hearst, but for me a road is an investment for a country or province. If the companies reduce the price of fuel in the future I am prepared to say, though I know it will make people mad, add another one cent of tax and put that money into the roads of this province. If we do not, we will not get out of Toronto. They are going to build that big stadium. The tourists we are talking about will not go to the north or other places because they will have trouble.

It will take $40 million per year for the next 10 years to put the rural roads in northern Ontario back in the condition they were in seven years ago. That is not our doing; that was someone else's doing. It is the same with our highways. I am going to do my best. I am going to put in $3 million more, but I will try to get more. I have discussed it with my friend the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton).

Mr. Wildman: We have been snowed on roads for too long.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: That is why they called one the James Snow Parkway.

My colleague was talking about agriculture. I understand what he is saying. Last week the

Minister of Agriculture and Food met with people at Englehart. There were some cow-calf producers there. His ministry is looking into it. They are going to be in the program this year. His officials use the word "kick-off." They say the cow-calf price was higher. I do not know; that is what they told me. I have to believe what the minister tells me. If he says no, we will have to look into it. They are going to be covered. The parliamentary assistant told me that.

On native economics, I agree wholeheartedly with my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin . I came here when I was the mayor of Hearst and brought my native friend from Calstock because he had no money to travel. We travelled on my credit card. We used to come to see my friend René, not René Piché but René Brunelle. It was bad; we were crying. He cried too because the people, especially on the coast, were in very deep poverty. Mr. Chairman, you were there with the Ombudsman and you know what I am talking about. However, he used to say: "That is not our problem. That is the federal government's problem."

Last year at this time, the Premier made a commitment in Moosonee to the native people that they will be part of this province and we will work together. I met with Mr. Crombie last week. Together, this government and the one in Ottawa will try to give them a new way of life or a new light at the end of the tunnel. I assure my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin we are going to look after that. They are part of this province. For too long we have been talking about Ottawa. Now we will assume our responsibility and we are doing so.

9:40 p.m.

The new committee of Indian affairs is meeting every two weeks and the Nishnawbe-Aski nation and the other native people are very satisfied. They are satisfied because we are serious. As a member from the north, I am serious. When I see how those people have been treated, I think maybe we will burn for that. I am serious.

To take the children out of their homes at 14 years of age, bring them from the north and throw them into North Bay and Timmins is close to criminal. We would not let that happen to our children. After that, we say they do not graduate and they drink, etc. We had a hard time with our own son. They go to the big city from Hearst. They go to Ottawa. The first year they all fail. They are 20 years old. If one took a young boy or girl at eight, 10 or 14 years old, one would bring them up fine. Something went wrong, so we are going to try to rectify that. We are going to try to follow what was recommended by Mr. Fahlgren on the schools.

I discussed that with Mr. Crombie. We discussed an economic pool. Now our chiefs are going to take the airplane every month and go to Manitoba to get that money. When they come back after three or four years, they have no money. Those guys spent more than $15,000 to go to Manitoba to present their case. I told Mr. Crombie to raise some money together with the provinces and form a pool that could be administered as is an Ontario Development Corp. loan, by people who know how to manage it. At the same time, they will have a say as to where the money should go.

This is the direction we are taking with the native people on the economic issues. On those issues, we are the same. We are going to treat them as Ontarians. If they come up with some money, I will not ask them where it came from. I do not care if it comes from Ottawa. We will try to help them through the northern Ontario regional development program and through others.

For example, when I was at Big Trout Lake, the chief told me about his plans for a senior citizens' complex. He said, "I will have to cut $85,000." He was cutting out the common room. I said: "Do not cut the common room. If you cut the common room, you might as well not build the senior citizens' home at all." My ministry decided to help them and we are going to pay for the common room. This is a new direction we are taking.

Right now we are studying the electrification of the reserve. This has never been tackled before. The natives were told it was Ottawa's problem. However, this new government, the Premier, the Minister of Natural Resources, Ontario Hydro and myself are going to attack that. I will not say "attack." That is a French word. We are going to look into that.

We are working with terms of reference and we will be looking at electrification from Moosonee to Attawapiskat. At the same time, we are looking at other reserves and other modes of electrification, because they put in only a small diesel and then they cannot even put in one or two lights. If they establish a motel or a resort they need more electrification. This is another area where we are looking at their development.

I know what my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin is talking about. I was there two or three times and I met with the natives he is talking about. I am sure that together and with

some good studies we can look at their problem. The member was talking about the tourists, and the shingle mill. They tried a shingle mill in my area and it was not very good because the cedar was fragile and split too much. I am sure in the member's area he has better cedar than in the swamps. Again, I discussed that with him previously. I brought it up three or four months ago when I was on the island. The man who has the sawmill should make a proposal and we will look into it.

I touched on most of the areas the member mentioned. I want to say I am committed that the native people of this province will be treated equally. I am also committed that our highways in the next few years will be back in good condition. I am going to fight for that.

Mr. Wildman: I have a couple of matters. I am not sure; are we going into the individual votes? I have some questions I was going to raise on the individual votes, but if we are going to run out of time, I will do it now.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We still have 17 minutes after tonight.

Mr. Wildman: Just to correct the new math of my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, there are seven Conservatives and seven New Democrats in the north, not nine and seven, and one Liberal. I do not know where he got his extra member.

As I said, if I had known how important it was to the member to have me mention the fact that it was his idea to establish a Ministry of Northern Affairs when he was the only member of the Conservative Party who was not a member of the government benches, then I would have done it. It has been mentioned in the House before; however, as the member was pointing that out to try to ensure that everyone in the House was aware of it because I had not mentioned it, I will raise a matter that comes under the purview of this minister in his responsibility for mines. This is a matter that should have been raised by the member for Algoma-Manitoulin but was not; it is the health and safety of workers in the uranium and gold-mining industries.

The minister might argue this comes under the occupational health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour, but I would like to know what position this minister, as the minister responsible for mines, is prepared to take on the miners in the uranium and gold mining industries. Studies indicate they are suffering levels of cancer much higher than those in the general population and that, up until a few years ago, they were inhaling a substance that was supposed to protect them but was discontinued because it was suggested it was ineffective. It now appears that not only was it ineffective in protecting them but it was also harmful.

What is the minister going to do to ensure, first, that those miners, and the widows and the children of the miners who have died, will get the compensation they deserve; second, that his government moves now rather than waiting for three years–as his colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) has indicated it might do for further studies–to adequately protect the miners now in the industry so they will not continue to operate with the possibility that more of them are going to succumb to cancer? What will he do to ensure that a health centre is established in Elliot Lake as the United Steelworkers of America have requested, so the men and women now in the mining industry can be monitored to ensure they do not contract cancer and die in the numbers being predicted by the year 2000?

Why did my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin not raise that issue rather than the matter of who suggested the establishment of the Ministry of Northern Affairs in 1976? It might have had more relevance to some of the people who live in both my riding and his riding who are affected by these serious problems in the mining industry.

I am going to raise a number of issues because I doubt we are going to get to the individual votes, item by item, until we actually finish off. So I will raise a number of the matters that I would have raised in that fashion.

In response to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin the minister mentioned the need for a highway and improvements to highways. I point out that we in the north have 36.9 per cent of the roads of the province–I would like the minister to confirm these figures if they are correct–and, as I understand it, we have had only 21.5 per cent of the capital construction under the previous government and only about 27 per cent of the maintenance budget was spent in the north. It does not seem to make sense. If we have 37 per cent of the roads, why we are getting only 27 per cent of the maintenance budget? If that is correct, perhaps it explains why the member for Algoma-Manitoulin needs to have better roads in northern Ontario.

In his remarks, the member for Kenora appeared to be opposed to the proposal made in the accord between the New Democratic Party and the Liberals to have an inquiry into gasoline price differential. I may be misinterpreting what he said, but since we are interested in transporta-

tion, I cannot understand why a member of this House from northern Ontario would not be interested in finding out why there are the anomalies in retail gasoline prices that we have experienced across northern Ontario.

I would like to know about the inquiry that has been carried out by the Ministry of Energy. I see the minister here. Where is that inquiry at? I asked a question about this, and I understand the minister said that by the end of the session we would hear about what has happened.

9:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We gave the member all the information beforehand.

Mr. Wildman: Okay, that was my question. If the information the Deputy Minister of Energy gave us at the end of November at our meeting is the sum total of that investigation, then in my view it does not fulfil the commitment. I want to know whether we are going to move from that preliminary investigation, which is what I consider it to be, to an actual, full fledged inquiry which will hold hearings across northern Ontario. I want to know whether that is going to be the responsibility of the Minister of Energy or the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We will do it together.

Mr. Wildman: I do not care how it is done as long as it is done, and as long as the commitment is fulfilled so we can get the input from northerners that the Minister of Northern Development and Mines has been talking about over and over in these estimates. Then we will know the views of retail dealers, the trucking industry, the people that operate the buses, small business people across northern Ontario and consumers in general. We will then have a better idea of what they perceive to be the problems and some idea how we can respond to those problems.

With regard to forestry and mining, the Liberal Party in its platform for the election campaign made a number of commitments. They said they would "provide for the regeneration of all cutover lands and the backlog of unsatisfactorily restocked crown lands. This would ensure adequate supplies to meet current demands and allow future expansion." They said they would "greatly increase the current regeneration program to meet our wood supply target."

I would like to know what the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is doing to encourage the cabinet to fulfil that commitment–the minister did not like to use the word "promise"–on the part of the Liberal Party in this province.

I realize that when these commitments were made the Liberals never thought they would be the government, but I would like to find out what they are going to do now that they are the government.

They also said they would "establish a consistent and continuous forest species inventory to record species, maturity and climatic conditions." What is happening with that? They said they would "place a priority on increased research and development in support of forest renewal and intensive forest management and increase funding for the forestry schools, such as Lakehead University, which are facing severe budget cuts at a time of greater demand for silviculturists."

They also said they would "control the cutting practices of lumber companies to eliminate wasteful cutting practices and encourage greater utilization of allowable cuts." They noted there was "scope for increased use of hardwoods in pulping manufacturing."

I would like the minister to tell us what he is doing to meet those commitments by the Liberal Party.

With respect to mining, we have already talked about the commitment to set up a separate ministry of mines. We will not go into that again.

The minister has sent me a picture of a white pine. It is very nice.

Mr. Ramsay: It is the provincial symbol.

Mr. Wildman: It is the provincial symbol. It is ironic that we establish the white pine as the provincial symbol in this province just about when we have destroyed all the white pine stands across the province.

Despite all of the comments by the minister in these estimates, the Liberal Party said they would "provide for increased secondary and tertiary processing of ores mined in Ontario." What about Falconbridge? What is the government doing about Falconbridge? I want the minister to fulfil that one commitment. I do not want to list them all; I am just picking out a few.

In relation to agriculture, the Liberal Party stated, and I know my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin–

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Ask David. He is very satisfied.

Mr. Wildman: Dave is satisfied. I am glad to hear that.

In 1981, there were 3,715 farms in northern Ontario, which was a decrease of 10 per cent from 1976. That was three per cent higher than the decrease across the province. In 1981, 48 per cent of the northern farm land was improved,

which is much lower than 75 per cent of the improved land in the province. Thirty per cent of the farms in northern Ontario had sales of less than $2,500 in a year; the provincial average is double that. Twenty-one per cent of the farms in the north had sales of $25,000, when 43 per cent of the farms in the province had sales in excess of that amount, more than twice as many.

In January 1985, 31 per cent of the northern farmers were in arrears of loans to the Farm Credit Corp., which was considerably above the provincial average of 20 per cent. Northern Ontario has three million acres of unused crop land.

In response to this situation, which I think is approaching a crisis, the Liberal Party made a number of commitments. They said they would "ensure better marketing of northern agricultural products through the creation of a central distribution system in the north" and they would "amend the crop insurance program to allow the establishment of an insurance scheme whereby those farmers who have crops planted over several parcels of land can buy coverage on each parcel." Has the new proposal done that? I do not think it has.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It is coming.

Mr. Wildman: It is coming. Okay; when?

I would like to know from the minister what he is doing to ensure that these commitments to northern Ontario are met.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Everything.

Mr. Wildman: The minister is doing everything.

This is an interesting one. This reminds me of the proposal of the member for Cochrane South for a food terminal in Timmins, which never came about. The Liberals are going to "finance studies"–they can do that all right–"to determine the feasibility of the development of a meat-packing plant in the north, with the aim to offset higher costs of transporting animals out of the region for slaughter and transporting the meat back to northern supermarkets." When is the study going to be announced?

The Liberals also said they would "undertake increased research for the development of crop varieties and management practices in light of the limitations imposed by the climate and the soils of northern regions." When can we expect the announced increase in funding for the college? Is it New Liskeard? That would be the place to carry out these studies.

The minister talked about tourism and Hydro. I will not mention them because of the time.

In closing, I would like to move to the health and social sectors that the minister mentioned. As the minister is aware, we have a tremendous need for professionals in the north. The percentage of doctors per capita in the north is much lower than in the rest of the province. In the rest of Ontario there is one doctor for every 550 people, although it runs to one for every 928 people in some places. In northern Ontario we have one doctor for every 1,200 people, and we have even a greater shortage when we talk about specialists.

We have a tremendous need for psychiatrists, speech therapists, surgeons and obstetricians, and we have a sincere and tremendous need for professionals in the health care and social fields who can speak French, who are bilingual.

10 p.m.

In response to this serious problem, the Liberals said in their policy document, "In addition to the current programs to induce doctors to practise in the north, internship spots will be promoted for qualified foreign-educated and local doctors who agree to practise in designated areas in the north."

When does the minister intend to announce this program?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It has been announced.

Mr. Wildman: The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) announced his program on travel assistance, and he also said he was going to try to attract more professionals to the north, but does that include the internship spots or not? Maybe I missed something; I am not sure. We really have a serious problem. I will use my own area as an example.

The average starting salary in Ontario for a speech therapist is $34,000 per year. The pay range that is allowed for in the budget of the Algoma District Mental Retardation Service is only $22,500 to $25,300. Even the top salary for a speech therapist in our area is approximately $9,000 less than the average starting salary for a speech therapist in the province.

How on earth does the minister think we are going to attract speech therapists to our area with those kinds of figures? Obviously the Ministry of Community and Social Services has to commit more money and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has to do something to ensure the money is there so that we can get these services into the north.

The average earnings of a mental retardation counsellor in Sault Ste. Marie are between $15,600 and $17,400. The Ministry of Community and Social Services will fund at a rate of only

$7.58 for the Algoma District Mental Retardation Service, but a counsellor with the same qualifications, working for a ministry facility, gets paid $10.50.

Will the minister please explain to me why it is that the government will pay its employees doing the same job $10.50, but will fund the agency that is delivering the service in the north only $7.58? If they continue that, how on earth does he expect to attract the professionals we need in the north? They should be paid more in the north, not less.

There are 1,293 psychologists in Ontario, according to my figures. Only four of them live and work in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma. Right now, the Algoma District Child and Youth Services is attempting to find a clinical psychologist and it cannot recruit one; it cannot find one. This has been going on for years.

I talked to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) about this and it seems to me that one of the approaches–and it is just one–has to be the level of remuneration. I do not think the proposal that was made by the Liberal Party or the statement that was made by the Minister of Health when he announced the very much needed travel program for which we had campaigned for so long–and that the Liberal Party had committed itself to, and that the Conservative Party for so long refused to do–is going to do enough.

Frankly, what we need in the north is some professional schools. I know it is going to cost an awful lot of money, it will be a tremendous investment and we are going to run into an awful lot of opposition from the schools in southern Ontario, but until we get some schools and a teaching hospital in the north–I do not care whether it is in Sudbury or Thunder Bay or Timmins or wherever–we will not attract enough northern students. If we attract the northern students to southern Ontario facilities, most of the graduates will end up staying in southern Ontario after they graduate and take their internships.

The minister should know that in Sweden the development of post-secondary education was the complete opposite of the development in northern Ontario. In the north we developed a number of general arts faculties and eventually expanded that into professional schools where it was possible. It operated the other way in Sweden. They started first by identifying what professionals they needed in their north and they developed schools to meet that need; first the doctors, then social workers, then engineers. That was 20 or 30 years ago.

We cannot go back, but I think we have to move in this direction or we will never be able to provide the professionals we need in the north. In the interim we have to do something about the salary levels and the funding from the government. I implore the minister to make it clear to Management Board of Cabinet and members of the cabinet committee that unless we can fund and do all we can to recruit and bring professionals to the north, despite his commitment for improvement in social services and health care, northerners will continue to suffer below-average and inadequate services in the communities of northern Ontario.

I hope the minister can respond. I will yield the floor and not take up any more of the members' time, making it possible for others to participate.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: In response to my friend, the member for Algoma, we know that agriculture has been a great problem. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has heard from farmers in northern Ontario and from other places and he told them that he will respond and I am confident he will. Since he took over the ministry, we know the results and there is more to be done.

I like to see that my friend is reading the Liberal program. Perhaps he will vote Liberal too. The member is right regarding medical travel. We announced we were moving in that field in June of the year before when the member for Hamilton Centre was Sheila Copps. I used to tease–

Mr. Wildman: She copped our program.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: When the leader of the third party came to Hearst that fall, Ms. Copps had already announced it, but he said he was there first. While we are talking about specialties, next year's budget signals a commitment to health and social services in the north including specialists. We plan to provide some bursaries and more initiatives for specialists under the underserviced-area program in 1986-87.

I too am very concerned about a safer and cleaner work place in the mines. I will do my best to see that the work place is safe and clean. I have asked my officials to report to me on the issues raised by the member. I am confident that I and my colleague the Minister of Labour will pursue the issue as quickly as possible.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Lane: I thank the minister for his remarks in reply to some of the remarks I had made. I think we are both singing from the same hymn

book. He is more in tune and I am singing louder, but he is missing some verses; that is the unfortunate part of it.

Getting back to the farmers, and my friend the member for Algoma raised this as well, these people are leaving the land every day and going into some other line of business, so the minister had better talk to his friend the Minister of Agriculture and Food. For some reason or other, and I have asked this question several times in the House, there is no assistance for the cow-calf producer for 1985 production. Yet our western provinces have that kind of support. The minister had better talk to his colleague.

He should also talk to the Minister of Natural Resources, who was here a few moments ago and has gone. In Michigan they have a multimillion-dollar tourist business because of their fisheries. Our people are saying the water is too cold or too deep or too shallow—whatever—but there is just the lake between us. Some negotiations have to happen here in cabinet.

I do appreciate the minister's comments. Getting back to some of the comments the member for Algoma made about the uranium miners in Elliot Lake, this is in my riding and I can tell the minister that back in 1971 when I was first elected there were about 9,000 people in Elliot Lake, and now there are about 20,000. I attended the Ham commission hearings which were set up by our government. We were a majority government back in 1971. We set up the Ham commission and we looked at this problem.

I arranged for the wives of working miners to come down to Queen's Park and meet with the various ministers and talk about the problems their husbands and families were having. I am still going to the Workers' Compensation Board and dealing with these claims. Let the member for Algoma look after his own damned riding. I will look after mine, thanks very much; we are doing it very well.

Mr. Wildman: A number of the miners live in my riding.

Mr. Lane: A while ago somebody mentioned colours and said green is a good colour. Green is sort of drab and red is very hard on the eyes, but there is nothing better than a true-blue colour. Who can beat that?

The spraying program has become a very serious problem with the jack-pine budworm, the spruce budworm and the gypsy moth. I think it is time we looked at the various chemicals that are used in addition to bacillus thuringiensis. I do not want to discourage anybody or get anybody upset about using chemicals, but we do have to protect our forests and I am sure we can do it and still do it safely by using certain chemicals. What I do want for the people out there is to know that what we are doing is safe and they are not going to have uneasiness about their families or their future. I would ask the minister to make sure people are aware of the safety of the program.

Talking about gasoline prices, nobody knows better than the member for Algoma that back on February 22, 1978, I was the guy who brought in the private member's bill to try to equalize the price of gasoline across this province. Unfortunately, it did not wash, but I still think it was not a bad bill.

In any case, I do appreciate the response the minister made to the various things I brought up in my comments and I will tell him, I am a northerner, he is a northerner and we are not going to allow politics to get in between us. If we can make life better for northerners, then God bless us both. There is no problem between him and me on that part.

Getting back to our native friends, I was pleased to hear him say he was prepared to try to make it easier for them to get involved in some of these programs that otherwise they have not been able to get involved in. As I pointed out before, there are Indian reserves in my constituency. They are good people. Their lifestyle is different from mine, but who am I to dictate to them that they should change their lifestyle? All I want to do is try to improve the quality of life on the reserves. With the minister's help, I would be pleased to work with him on that.

There are other comments I could make, but there are other members who would like to speak tonight. Time is getting on. The minister mentioned he got up at five o'clock this morning, and it has been a long day. I can appreciate that, since I got up at 5:40 a.m.; I will split the difference with him and make it 5:20. As far as I am concerned, unless somebody has other objections, I am prepared to pass vote 801.

Mr. Harris: I know we are running short of time and I understand quite a few members want to ask questions. I would not mind asking a couple of brief questions. I apologize for not being able to be here throughout all the estimates. I am not sure whether the custom is to ask one question and wait for an answer and hope to get the floor back, or should I ask all the questions in the event I might not get the floor back?

Mr. Chairman: You would be wise to ask all the questions. The minister will write them down or memorize them all.

Mr. Harris: You might have difficulty getting through the estimates tonight if that is your approach, Mr. Chairman, but there is always tomorrow.

Before I ask the questions, I would like to refer to the estimates book and read a couple of things.

On page 9, under ministry administration, it is stated that one of the goals is "to carry out effective advocacy, on behalf of the people of the north, with all ministries, agencies and boards to ensure that northern needs and conditions are fully taken into account when government decisions are made."

On page 14, under analysis and planning, it is stated that the branch maintains "close liaison with policy groups in other Ontario ministries and with Treasury and Economics on regional economic development issues in particular."

On page 15, a function under information services is "to provide information to Ontario government ministries and legislators to familiarize them with northern Ontario and the needs of its residents in order that other ministries can respond appropriately within their policy areas."

I mention those three things because I have a couple of questions that involve other ministries of the government. Having quoted from three places in the estimates where it is stated that the purpose of this ministry is to be an advocate for all the people of northern Ontario, to co-ordinate activities with other ministries in northern Ontario, I think some of the activities carried on by other ministries are important to this ministry.

10:20 p.m.

One of my questions has to do with the northern travel allowance of the Ministry of Health. The minister will know that chiropractors are not included in the program the Liberal government decided to bring forward. The minister ought to know, or I will inform him, there are many chiropractors practising in northern Ontario who have occasion to refer patients to specialists in southern Ontario. Because they are not included and they cannot sign the forms for the referrals, two things happen. Either the patient goes ahead with the referral, sees a specialist in Toronto and pays his own way; or, if he wants to get his way paid, the chiropractor can refer him to another medical doctor and the Ontario health insurance plan will have to pay the cost of his getting around the restriction that is in place.

I ask the minister responsible for northern Ontario to look at this. Perhaps it has been looked at and he can respond today. If that is the case, I would appreciate an explanation as to why chiropractors are not able to refer to medical specialists in Toronto. If he is not able to respond, I ask him to look into that to see whether that would make more sense.

I have discussed this with my colleague the member for Cochrane South, who informs me it was his intent that this should be covered under the plan introduced by the previous government.

Second, I will refer to something the minister said in response to one of the other questions on education dealing with our northern natives. He mentioned that he thought it was disgraceful, disgusting and terrible that natives from communities such as Attawapiskat and Fort Albany had to leave their communities and go to centres such as Timmins and North Bay to receive secondary education.

I ask the minister to confirm whether it is his intention that high schools be built in Fort Albany, Matachewan, Attawapiskat and in the various communities there. If one has to be built somewhere, which may be fair, is that the approach he prefers. Does he see some value in many of the young native students seeing something of the outside world beyond their bands in those small communities they inhabit in James Bay?

I want him to look at that in the light of whether he feels the reason they need a high school education, if obtained at a high school built in Kashechewan, is that they will carry on and live in that community, or whether he feels the goal of continuing education is not to give them a little bit of a look outside their communities and an opportunity to be able to live, grow up and be part of a slightly larger community than the community they live in.

Having quoted the three sections of the estimates that I did, I am also very interested in the involvement the Minister of Northern Development and Mines might have had with housing policies in northern Ontario. The Minister of Housing has recently announced several new initiatives. Most of them appear to be rehashes of existing programs.

One of them was a program called Renterprise. I hope the minister will be aware that I raised with the Minister of Housing last Tuesday in his estimates the Renterprise program and the basis for selection of areas of the province that would be designated eligible for this new $75-million program. It appears to be the only significant new housing initiative the government has come up with other than tightening up rent controls and extending them to other units.

Since it is a program of major significance, $75 million, I raised it with the Minister of Housing. He referred it to some official, who informed us–and if the minister wants to check, it is in Hansard of last Tuesday–that it was basically a rehash of a former very successful program that was out in 1984. That was the reason they came up with it. It was successful for the previous government and they thought it would be successful for this government, but they made a change. They said it was targeted more to specific areas. Indeed, it was different in that way. Whereas the program by the previous government applied to all of Ontario, this specific housing program applied only to designated areas.

The minister might know that areas such as Mattawa–where he was on Friday–Parry Sound, Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Kirkland Lake, Timiskaming and the Tri-town areas are not included in this program. It is part of what the Minister of Housing said was assured housing for all of Ontario, but many of these areas were not included. When I pursued that a little further, I was told what the main criteria were. If the minister will check in Hansard, they said the main criterion was the vacancy rate. This is on the record from the officials of the Ministry of Housing.

What bothered me was that the North Bay vacancy rate is 0.2 per cent, Sudbury is 0.6 per cent and Timmins is four per cent. Timmins is in the program, Sudbury is in the program and Sault Ste. Marie is in the program at 0.6 per cent. The problem in North Bay is three times worse than in the Sault, three times worse than in Sudbury and 20 times worse than in Timmins. I was intrigued, and perhaps the minister can tell me, because I was not able to get the figures for Cochrane and for Hearst, because they are not available from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp, whether Cochrane and Hearst are in the program.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Moosonee.

Mr. Harris: Was Moosonee in the program as well? Yes. Perhaps the minister could explain to me what representation he, as the Minister of Northern Development and Mining, made to the Ministry of Housing to include municipalities in northern Ontario. Perhaps he could explain why no municipality between Timmins and Muskoka on Highway 11 was included. Of course, he would not be surprised if I was specifically concerned that North Bay, with a 0.2 per cent vacancy rate in the city, one of the lowest vacancy rates in all of northern Ontario, one of the lowest per capita incomes of many of the communities and one of the longest waiting lists for subsidized housing, was not included.

I ask him what representation he made? If it was not that extensive and if the Minister of Housing rushed the whole bejabers through cabinet to get it announced, I ask that minister to go back and look at it and make a representation on behalf of those areas of northern Ontario that are not included in a program that is supposed to provide assured housing for all.

I do have a couple of other questions, and since I know we have another 18 minutes or so perhaps I had better get them all on the record, bearing in mind the Chairman's advice that if I do not do it now I might not get back on my feet.

I am interested in the minister's comments on speed limits in northern Ontario. He will know that a number of municipalities have commented on speed limits on the highways in northern Ontario. I am interested in what the minister feels, representing northern Ontario, and whether he has an opinion on whether it should be looked at, or just his thoughts on it.

Finally, I would like to ask about the spraying of chemicals on northern Ontario forests. I ask that because one of my colleagues from the New Democratic Party asked him a question in this Legislature and the minister did not answer it. He referred it to the Minister of the Environment. That was not acceptable to my colleague. I believe it was the member for Nickel Belt who asked for what we commonly refer to as a late show.

When my colleague the member for Nickel Belt raised it, he indicated that he understood where the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of the Environment were coming from; however, given the three sections of this minister's estimates that relate to his involvement with the other ministries, that relate to his involvement on behalf of the people of northern Ontario, the member asked for the minister's opinion, he wanted to know what he felt.

That evening the minister said it was none of our business. He said it was not the business of the member for Nickel Belt, it was not the business of myself, the member for Nipissing, and it was not the business of this Legislature.

Mr. Chairman: I have to interrupt the member for Nipissing at this point. It is 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, there are still 15 seconds left according to my watch.

Mr. Chairman: No, it is 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, 15 seconds would allow me to finish. If not, I might take

considerably more time. I ask you to weigh my clock versus yours.

Mr. Chairman: If you are going to finish in 15 seconds, and if it is the unanimous consent of the House–

Mr. Harris: My clock says 15 seconds.

Mr. Chairman: –to finish these estimates–

Mr. Harris: If there is not, that is fine.

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me. Do we have that 15 seconds? Yes, we do. There seems to be unanimous consent that there is another 15 seconds for the member for Nipissing if he wishes to use them.

Mr. Harris: Summing up in the last 15 seconds of my remarks, this Legislature is entitled to ask the minister his opinion on chemical spraying in northern Ontario. It is his mandate for the people of northern Ontario, according to three pages and sections I read in his estimates. When we reconvene to hear these estimates, I would appreciate it if the minister would respond to the four or five questions I have raised.

Mr. Chairman: Is there the unanimous consent of the House that the votes and items of these estimates be taken at this time?

Mr. Harris: No, I am sorry.

On motion by Ms. E. J. Smith, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 11, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Cousens: As co-chairman of the Ontario Legislature Committee for Soviet Jewry with the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) and the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer), it gives me great pleasure in announcing the release today of the human rights advocate, Anatoly Shcharansky, perhaps the best known of the Soviet refuseniks, a man who has sacrificed the last nine years of his life in prison charged with treason, anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

We know his real crime was his pursuit of freedom of thought, freedom of religion and freedom to join his wife Avital in Israel. We are all aware, as Canadians, that a crime of this nature would place each and every one of us in permanent detention in countries such as the Soviet Union.

Today is a day of celebration and one of deliberation. Anatoly Shcharansky has become one less statistic in the ranks of the oppressed, but he is just one of thousands of individuals faced with the denial of basic human freedoms, the denial of rights and decencies that we in this country so often take for granted.

Along with my colleagues in the Soviety Jewry committee, I ask the members today to applaud the recent release of Mr. Shcharansky. We also ask them to join with us in our continuing pursuit of justice for all the Anatoly Shcharanskys of this world. Today they remain nameless and faceless, but through our efforts and support, tomorrow they will not be speechless.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I join with my colleague and my other colleagues in this House, many of whom have spoken eloquently on the subject in the past, and say that the prayers of millions were answered today. I am sure all members of this House and all citizens of the province share our overwhelming sense of joy at Anatoly Shcharansky's release from bondage.

This renowned human rights activist has inspired the commitment of many here in Ontario; many members of this assembly of all parties have been involved actively, speaking out forcefully and eloquently for his freedom and the cause of his fellow Soviet Jews.

His effectiveness in fighting for freedom, even while behind bars, has provided a beacon for all who are free in this world and all who wish to be free. In the words of Gérard Filion, "Freedom is not a gift but something that must be won." Anatoly Shcharansky deserves our congratulations for having won his and having done so much to help others win theirs.

Mr. Rae: This is indeed a gloriously happy day and one that unites all of us in the House. I have been fortunate enough to speak from many platforms, as has my wife, on behalf of the cause of Soviet Jewry. It is not only a symbolic day for those of us who have worked so hard. I am looking across at the government House leader, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), and I know his feelings on this subject and the experience he had while travelling to the Soviet Union together with others.

I simply want to say on behalf of my party how delighted we are for the cause and how specially pleased we are for Mr. Shcharansky and his very brave and courageous wife and family, who have taken up not only the cause of Anatoly Shcharansky but also the plight of literally thousands of others who live in the Soviet Union, who are not able to practise their religion freely, who are not able to express themselves and who are not able to leave the country and immigrate to Canada, the United States or Israel. We simply have to admire the courage of people who have given up so much and fought so hard for this day.

We join with all members of the Legislature in expressing our solidarity with the Shcharansky family and our solidarity with all those who live not in freedom but in oppression. It is so important that we remember them this day and celebrate with the Shcharanskys but continue to fight, and fight as hard as we can, for all those who know not yet the dream of freedom.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition. On a point of order?

Mr. Grossman: On the same matter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: With respect, I believe if I allow you, then I will have to allow all members to–

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Let us go around again.

Mr. Speaker: Go around again? All right.

Mr. Grossman: I might point out that the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) was speaking as chairman of the parliamentary committee on Soviety Jewry. I would have thought it appropriate for each of the party leaders to respond and then to proceed with normal business. My colleague was speaking not as a member of our party but as chairman of an all-party committee.

I will take just a moment of the House's time to reflect upon these happy events. As one who has shared a platform with many members on all sides of the House in supporting the cause that Anatoly Shcharansky has represented for many years, I feel a special bond because I have been in the Soviet Union. In 1972, I was searched, followed and threatened by the KGB for having attempted to take religious articles to the Soviet dissidents. That is food for thought, in that the very taking over the border of prayer books and prayer shawls is an offence in the Soviet Union. I did that, as did many other Canadians with, I might say, less attachment to the cause than I had.

As a result, through 10 days of intimidation, searching and being followed by the KGB, I had the crushing and shattering experience of seeing Soviet Jewish dissidents arrested as they walked in the front door of the hotel we were staying in on their way simply to meet with me and others to get a prayer book. They were arrested in front of our eyes by the KGB, who knew it would cause a great deal of unrest and knew it would make the government of the Soviet Union look as foolish and as oppressive as it did, but that mattered not to them. Suppressing any attempt to contact the brave people behind the Iron Curtain who carried the cause of human rights only was to them an offence so serious that they felt it warranted arresting people in front of the eyes of free western observers.

2:10 p.m.

I watched fellow Jews being arrested in the lobby in front of us, being taken away screaming, asking that we carry a message to people in the west that they shouted out as they were carried away. I can remember as we left leaving my topcoat and all the articles of personal clothing we did not need, including some articles of my then pregnant wife, for the brave people left behind, whom we met in a park at 3 a.m. They knew even then they were being watched and their lives would be in peril after we left.

On this day when citizens throughout the world gather to celebrate the release of just one of thousands of imprisoned and enslaved people who only want to speak for human rights and dignity in the Soviet Union, I want to remind everyone that this brave martyr who has been freed represents thousands more who are suffering equally and tens of thousands more who will never even have the minimum human rights accorded a so-called citizen of the Soviet Union.

Words cannot be enough upon his release today. We must not use words to celebrate the release of one or two or three brave dissidents. We must use actions to back up the demand, the request, for freedom, human rights and dignity by thousands of others who are left behind only because they do not have the courage to be imprisoned or the notoriety to be freed.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I want to speak briefly and express my relief and optimism upon the news of the release of Mr. Shcharansky, who now will be joining his family in Tel Aviv, I understand. It was regrettable that he left the eastern bloc countries with a group of spies, and the implication was that he was one of them, without implying anything other than to say he obviously was not. He had simply expressed publicly his intention to assert his individual liberties. The upside of this whole thing is that he is now permitted to leave the Soviet Union and rejoin his family.

We should see this might indicate a small or slight change of opinion on behalf of the relatively new leadership in the Soviet Union. I earnestly join with the views and hope expressed by other members that perhaps the thousands of people who feel they should and want to leave the Soviet Union to join their families elsewhere, mostly in Israel, in the reasonably immediate future will have the freedom to do so.

I was very interested in the comments of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman). Along with the chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Rev. Stan Lucyk of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church and Miss Charlotte Gray of Ottawa, I travelled under the auspices of the Committee on Soviet Jewry. It may have been our or at least my bucolic innocence that about two years ago led us to feel we could travel by public transportation about Moscow, Leningrad and Riga, telephone and meet the people who had been refused exit visas, who–at least the ones we met–were very brave and realized the ramifications of meeting us.

I sometimes thought we were not doing them the greatest service by singling them out, but they

seemed to be very glad to see us. I cannot point to anything positive that we did, although we did carry large amounts of material that was useful to them. We took it through customs and were fully examined but not questioned. The only thing that was taken away from me was some tapes of a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. program by Stephen Lewis on this matter. I assured the customs inspector that Mr. Lewis was a leading spokesman for democratic socialism in the western world, but that did not seem to impress him. They gave me a receipt and indicated I could pick up the tapes on my way out.

It may be that the heavy hand in oppressing is now lightening somewhat and that with hope and prayer the people who have been subjected to this oppression and repression may very well find things are better in the future. I sincerely hope that is so. The coming of Mr. Shcharansky to the west and his travelling to Tel Aviv to join his family are a remarkable indication that this might be happening.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is a historic day for the women of Ontario. Later this afternoon I will introduce legislation aimed at establishing pay equity in the Ontario public service.

All Ontarians can support the principle that the value of work is not measured by whether it is performed by a man or a woman. In fact, the Employment Standards Act requires that women be paid the same as men for equal work in the same establishment. However, our current laws have left women far short of reaching full economic equality.

Let there be no mistake about the reason for this legislation. This bill is about equality. We cannot speak of a just, decent, humane society if we do not mean a society with a basis of equal treatment and equal opportunity for all. From government, whose primary obligation is to ensure equality, we expect nothing less. To women, whose burden has been the injury of inequality, we owe nothing less. For future generations, whose ideas about equality we help to shape, we must establish nothing less.

The Public Service Pay Equity Act is the first legislative initiative in a program of initiatives by this government in fulfilment of this obligation. It is a clear statement by the government declaring that the economic disadvantage endured by women because they are women is now to be ameliorated.

Pay equity is not intended to penalize anyone. It is intended to redress past injustice.

Despite the dramatic increase in female participation in the work force during the past 20 years, women have been channelled into predominantly female occupations with earnings significantly lower than those of men. While there are many reasons that account for the difference in earnings, one factor that contributes to this differential has historically been the lower value placed on jobs performed by women. Our bill is intended to reduce significantly that gap in the public service.

L'équité salariale est un objectif réalisable. Elle a pour but de remédier à une injustice historique en valorisant le travail des femmes. Aujourd'hui, j'ai l'honneur de déposer une loi qui nous aidera à atteindre ce but. Notre gouvernement veut que les femmes soient rémunérées équitablement à la valeur de leur apport.

From the very outset, this government has acknowledged the inherent complexities in developing a workable pay equity policy. Ontario is fortunate to be able to benefit from the experience of other jurisdictions that already have pay equity legislation. At the same time, we have developed an approach tailored to Ontario's needs.

The bill is complex and comprehensive. It defines a sophisticated process for phasing in implementation. It achieves the twofold purpose of dealing with the technical problems of implementation and demonstrating fiscal responsibility, while building on the strengths of the collective bargaining system.

2:20 p.m.

The Public Service Pay Equity Act redresses systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work performed by employees in predominantly female groups of jobs in the public service of Ontario. It shares with the green paper the six principles that form the basis of pay equity policy in Ontario.

1. The purpose of pay equity is to address gender-based pay discrimination only and not general issues of wage levels.

2. Only employees in predominantly female occupations will be eligible for pay equity adjustments.

3. Pay equity will not require jobs to be of identical value for comparisons to be made. It contemplates comparisons between jobs of equal or comparable value.

4. Equal value comparisons will be limited to a given employer's establishment.

5. The legislation will not be retroactive prior to proclamation.

6. Wage reductions will not be permitted.

Let me outline the highlights of our legislation.

1. The act will cover about 76,000 employees, 29,000 of whom are in predominantly female groups of jobs.

2. Both a proactive and a complaints-based approach are adopted by the legislation. The first phase of the program obliges the public service employers and the appropriate bargaining units to identify inequities and to provide redress. In the second phase of the program, after completion of the proactive phase, individuals or groups of employees may register complaints about gender-based compensation practices.

3. For the purposes of determining gender predominance, a predominantly female group of jobs will mean a group with 60 per cent or more of the positions occupied by women. In the context of a proactive program, this is the most inclusive definition of any jurisdiction. A predominantly male group of jobs means a group of jobs with 70 per cent or more of the positions occupied by men.

4. A pay equity commission will be established to enforce compliance with the legislation.

5. The value of jobs will be assessed according to a composite of the skill, effort and responsibility normally required in the performance of the work and the conditions under which the work is performed.

6. Pay equity will be achieved when the pay for the representative job level in a predominantly female group of jobs is at least equal to the pay for the job level in a predominantly male group of jobs where the work performed in the two job levels is of equal or comparable value.

7. Pay equity plans are to be developed in stages. Each plan will provide for the development or selection of a gender-neutral job evaluation or comparison system; identify all predominantly female and all predominantly male groups of jobs; provide for the application of the system to positions in these groups of jobs; and provide for the necessary adjustments in the rates of compensation.

8. The legislation will specify time periods for the negotiation and development of pay equity plans and pay adjustments.

9. The first adjustments in pay are expected to be made approximately two years after proclamation. They will represent not less than one per cent of total payroll for the employees covered by each respective plan from the date of proclamation. The last pay adjustments could be made by the end of the fourth year. It is expected that total adjustments required will represent an increase of approximately four per cent of total payroll. This will amount to an ongoing increase in total payroll of approximately $88 million.

10. No employer will be required to increase the compensation payable pursuant to all pay equity plans combined, in any 12-month period, of more than one per cent of total payroll for the preceding 12 months.

11. A pay equity plan will prevail over the provisions of a collective agreement.

I commend all those persons within government, especially my colleagues the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), and officials of our ministries who have worked on this bill so painstakingly and tirelessly.

I also commend the many persons outside government with whom we have consulted, especially the representatives of the public service unions, the Ontario Federation of Labour, various women's groups and others who have helped to shape public policy. All those persons have helped bring us to this day. I commend and thank them.

The bill I will table today is fair, balanced and workable. It is a reflection of our determination to make changes and our commitment to lead the way towards those changes.

There is never an end-point to justice; there is only a beginning. For the women of Ontario, today is their beginning.

SPRAY PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: All members are aware that parts of eastern Ontario, primarily in nine counties in the area of Tweed, Napanee and Carleton Place, are in the midst of a serious gypsy moth infestation. That infestation has multiplied 246 times in the past four years. By the end of 1986, we expect that 750,000 hectares will be under attack in eastern Ontario.

Gypsy moths are more than just a nuisance. In the larva stage, these insects can defoliate, weaken and eventually kill entire forests. They have the potential to damage or destroy wildlife habitat, timber and recreational opportunities. There is no doubt that if the infestations are left unchecked, the areas affected will suffer a loss of jobs in the forest, tourism and recreation industries.

Over the past month, we have conducted five open houses in eastern Ontario to outline the province's proposal for dealing with the problem

as it exists on crown land. Today I would like to deal with the issue of private land.

As members know, aerial spraying is the only practical way to cover large areas of infested forest during the time the moth is in the larva stage. We believe an aerial spray program for private land is best designed and implemented at the local level.

I will be seeking authority to provide both financial and technical support for county spraying programs. This support will be formalized through agreements between the province and individual counties.

I will be recommending that, under the provincial Forestry Act, funding will be made available in 1986 to enable the nine eastern Ontario counties to reimburse private land owners who participate in an aerial spray program. An amendment to the Municipal Act is required to provide the counties with the authority to plan and implement spraying programs on private land.

To ensure all-party support for the program, a stated condition will be that funding may be applied only where the private land in question has been sprayed with bacillus thuringiensis, a biological insecticide spray.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out quickly a very serious discrepancy in the minister's statement which he may want to address even now. We congratulate him on the Bt spraying, but I cannot understand why Bt–

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member take his seat? He may ask that during question period.

Any other ministerial statements? Oral questions; the Leader of the Opposition.

[Applause]

Mr. Grossman: Actually, that applause was for the member for St. George (Ms. Fish), who really led the fight on Bt.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). He will be aware that, as well as banning extra billing by medical doctors, he is also banning extra billing by oral surgeons. There are approximately 150 of them in this province who extra bill, but in their case, only 30 per cent of their total accounts are covered by the Ontario health insurance plan. That means oral surgeons are faced with the prospect of losing up to 70 per cent of their income earned through hospital-based services, or the government will have to close that gap in one way or another.

Would the minister update us today specifically on the discussions he is having with the Ontario Dental Association and the amount or range within which he is thinking of raising the OHIP schedule benefits for opted-in oral surgeons?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are having discussions with the ODA, but at this point I am not able to provide a range of fee schedule adjustments for the members of the House.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Grossman: I say to the Minister of Health that he and his leader, as we will get into later this afternoon, are quite mistakenly leaving the impression that suddenly, without offsets, $54 million is going to be available to solve all sorts of health care problems throughout this province. The minister will also have to acknowledge that he is going to have to use a portion of that, perhaps as much as $13 million, to increase the OHIP schedule for the then opted-in dentists.

I suggest it is therefore very important that the minister outline today the range in which he is thinking of compensating the dentists for bringing them in, before he and his colleagues go around the province suggesting there is going to be $50 million in net funds available from the federal government. How much is it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The gentleman will want to know there are some suggestions that the amounts of insured services within the hospital sector may be reduced for the operation of dental surgeons. That is one proposal that has been put forward to me. I am considering that. In fact, if I follow the suggestion of the ODA, there may be a decrease in the number of insured services within the hospital sector. Those things are all before us. We are taking a look at all of those options that are available to us when we consider a suggestion for the fee schedule.

Mr. Grossman: With respect, if we heard the minister accurately, he is saying the number of OHIP insured services that oral surgeons currently provide in hospitals may be reduced.

Mr. Speaker: Is that the question?

Mr. Grossman: If the minister is saying there are fewer services going to be insured by OHIP for oral surgeons, then I invite him to explain how that provides more accessibility, not less.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I advised the honourable member in answer to his question was that a suggestion was put to me in a

conversation with the ODA which would accomplish a reduction in the number of services. I have not decided to do that. The suggestion is there with respect to what that association has been putting before me.

All I can tell the member is that we are having discussions. We are actively talking to these people with respect to a range of services. I have not come to any decision at this point with respect to a range of compensable items. In fact, in all honesty, I cannot tell him today how much money is being considered there.

Mr. Grossman: One would have thought that when the minister was running around the province offering allegedly more accessibility he would have said to the ODA: "The government rejects that suggestion outright." The minister talks about inconsistency.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Grossman: I have another question of the Minister of Health. As he will acknowledge, there is a critical crisis, not a little crisis but a critical crisis, in our hospitals across this province because of an acute shortage of beds for the chronically ill.

The minister knows patients are being treated in emergency wards, in corridors, in solariums. Before the minister reminds everyone of his only answer to these kinds of things, which is that we over here have had 42 years to solve the problem–

[Applause]

Mr. Grossman: The members over there applaud that because that is the only answer they recognize.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I thank the member for the confession.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: I want to give the minister the opportunity to tell us specifically what his government is doing to deal with the existing problems now. What is he doing to solve the problem, regardless of how it got there?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have taken several initiatives with respect to meeting needs for funding of areas where there are growth difficulties and growth problems. We are looking at a number of projects in the province and are trying to come to grips with emergency room needs.

We are working with our institutional branch in a very meaningful way to address some of the problems which this gentleman has brought to our attention, rightly, as historical problems. We are working on those, and we have made some announcements with respect to programs.

Mr. Grossman: I remind the minister that there is an outstanding announcement of 4,500 nursing home beds. He recently made an announcement of allocations of 10s and 20s, and those were the allocations announced by Keith Norton in the fall of 1984.

Does the minister agree with Dr. John Mulloy of the Sudbury and District Medical Society, who says the number of active care beds at Laurentian Hospital is "unsafe" because of the overflow of chronic care patients? What specifically is the minister doing to solve that problem, or does he disagree with Dr. Mulloy?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have responded with an initial announcement of some nursing home beds, as was indicated by the honourable gentleman, but I can tell him that we have also announced EldCap beds in northern Ontario to take some of the pressure off the requirements up there. We are working actively to address the particular problem that has been addressed by Dr. Mulloy. I do not know directly of Dr. Mulloy's situation.

I can tell the member that the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), has done a great deal to co-ordinate the efforts to respond to the chronic care needs of this province. We are dealing with it in an overall fashion, not with the ad hockery that has been the past problem. We are dealing with it in a co-ordinated fashion, and we are working hard to come up with programs that will assist services to the elderly of this province.

In addition, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) provided us with assistance through the co-ordinated home care program. We have also put together a chiropody program, which will help patients to remain much more independent. We have done a number of things that will help our seniors remain more active and more independent in their communities.

Mr. Rae: I know the minister will have to realize that what we are facing in this province with respect to older people who are in beds at a cost of between $400 and $500 a day and who have been in long-term care situations in hospitals for more than six months or a year, and in some cases more than two years, while we have a cancer epidemic which is becoming more serious and we have a great many physicians making severe criticisms of the nature and the ability of the health care system to respond.

Those are legitimate concerns and legitimate grievances.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Rae: Why have we had no specific announcement with respect to the severity of the chronic care problem and no specific response with respect to the cancer problem, which is epidemic in the province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, it is quite clear that we are coming to grips with the chronic care problem. As I said earlier, the Minister without Portfolio for senior citizens' affairs has been working very hard at that.

With respect to cancer treatment, we have provided equipment in Windsor. We opened a linear accelerator at Thunder Bay, and the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) and the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) were there to assist me with the opening of that facility.

Many programs have been introduced in this province to deal with cancer treatment, and many ways have been introduced to keep the people who are in most need of service–the seniors–in their communities longer. I applaud the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) as Minister of Community and Social Services for the recent introduction of the homemaker's program.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: A good answer.

Mr. Grossman: About three is all it deserves.

May I ask the Minister of Health this question? Given the extraordinary crisis that is out there and the fact that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) found in his budget, just to name four items, $60 million for roads, an alleged–I use that word carefully–$100 million for northern development, $6 million for tobacco farmers and is about to spend who knows how much to bring doctors back into the plan, juxtaposed against all those priorities and apart from the study by the Minister without Portfolio for senior citizens' affairs and all the generalities, can the minister tell us exactly how much money he has committed already to solve the chronic care bed problem? A one-word answer; just give us the figure.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Is it yes or no, or what is it today?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Let him tell us what he wants.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I want to advise the honourable gentleman that I do not have the particular number at my disposal at the moment. I will inform the members of the House when I have had an opportunity to check that over, but I can tell them that this government has done more in the past several months than was done by the members opposite by making sure that we do not necessarily put people in institutions; we use homemaker programs and other programs to keep those people in their communities where they are able to be independent and productive and valuable members of–

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the minister take his seat, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I do not mind waiting. I just feel sorry for the members who want to ask questions. A new question, the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: Saying they have done more than the Tories is hardly cause for a provincial demonstration.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In the Inflation Restraint Act, which his party supported in 1982, the law covered the councils of every municipality, every local board as defined in the Municipal Act, every board as defined in the Education Act, the corporation of every municipality, every hospital listed, every crown corporation, every local board of health, all the commissions and boards of government–literally hundreds of thousands of workers, 500,000 workers in the province. When it came time to freeze the wages, they chose to define the public sector in a very general, broad and generous way, and he supported that.

I wonder why, when he chose to freeze people's wages, he managed to define the public sector in a very generous and broad way, but when it comes time to deal with the problem of equal pay he chooses the most narrow possible definition of the Ontario public service.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to thank the honourable member for his question because it shows there is obviously little to criticize in this legislation. We did not bring in that legislation in 1982.

Mr. Rae: The minister supported it, voted for it and his leader was front and centre pushing for

it, so he should not give me that nonsense that it was not his legislation.

If the minister chooses not to answer that question, perhaps he will answer the next one. That legislation was effective the date it was read in this Legislature on September 21, 1982, supported by him at that time. He accepted that. With respect to this legislation, he has a phase-in program that in the case of some workers will take as long as two, three or even four years. Can he explain the discrepancy in that regard?

Hon. Mr Wrye: Once again, we did not bring in the legislation in 1982. That is ancient history. We have brought in this legislation today. We believe that it is reasonable, that it is workable and that four years down the road, when the women in the Ontario public service and in the agencies, boards and commissions affected by it have $88 million more in their pockets, they will be congratulating this government.

Ms. Fish: On the question of the base to which the legislation applies, why has the minister confined the applicable base to job categories where 60 per cent of employees are women rather than to all women in the public service?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: If we had pay equity for all women in the public service, I am not sure it would be pay equity. I am not sure what it would be, but it sure would not be pay equity. In choosing the 60 per cent figure, this government has chosen a figure that is 10 per cent lower than that in Manitoba, and it is lower than that in any other jurisdiction anywhere in North America. I think that is pretty commendable.

Ms. Gigantes: The minister knows very well that the Manitoba legislation applies to the broad public sector and covers a much wider range of employees in the province than this bill will.

How are we to have confidence in the so-called commitments of this government to bring in private sector equal pay when he will not extend the coverage of his public sector bill to the public sector as broadly determined?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I know my friend the member for Ottawa Centre is a very difficult individual to convince. She did not think we were going to bring in this bill and we have. All I can say is that the matter of the broader public sector, and indeed the private sector, is moving forward, as the member knows, and in time we will see the wider public sector and private sector initiatives.

I want to remind my friend she would not want to leave the impression that the narrow public sector and the broader public sector legislation in Manitoba are phased equally. They are not. I think she would not want to leave that impression. As well, she would not want to leave the impression that Manitoba has any private sector legislation, because it does not.

Ms. Gigantes: I would like to know what gives the minister the right to say that I believed or I did not believe legislation was coming. He has no right to say that.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

EX-PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

Mr. McClellan: The Minister of Health will be aware of two events in the city of Toronto this week: today at city hall a memorial service for homeless people who died on the street in this city and tomorrow the beginning of another inquest into the death of Drina Joubert, another ex-psychiatric patient who froze to death while living in a truck just prior to Christmas. Many of these people who have died on the streets were constituents of mine when they were residents of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

I have a question for the minister arising out of coroners' inquest verdicts into the deaths of Mr. Abdel Nasser of Portugal in July 1984 and Mr. Amiti Mizrahi in December 1985. What action has been taken with respect to the verdict of the Mizrahi inquest, that medical staff at psychiatric facilities be provided under law with the means of ensuring that discharged patients are released into an environment where they will receive proper care and attention? What is he going to do to get the Gerstein report out of the limbo in which it currently languishes?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot comment to the member in a specific way, but I will try to get the information together and reply tomorrow. In a more general manner, however, I can reply that every effort is made to place patients discharged from that particular institution. I have been told they place them, as much as they can, in areas where they find there are acceptable residences.

Although I guess the member has some degree of difficulty understanding, I can tell him there are shortages of approved facilities. Just recently, under the auspices of our community mental health program, we have approved three supportive housing projects. We are working very hard at a problem which has existed for a little while and we will continue to work very hard at providing suitable supportive housing in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Reville: The minister should know that those efforts are shockingly inadequate. It would have been instructive for him to have joined my leader and myself for lunch today at All Saints

Church, where there is a hostel and where many ex-psychiatric patients live.

Will the minister undertake to call on the undoubted talents of his cabinet colleagues the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Nixon) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and table, on the return of the House in the spring, a comprehensive plan of action to deal with the income, health and housing needs of Ontarians who, failing such a plan, will continue to die on the streets in this and in future winters?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have taken steps to improve the services we have provided to those people who have found themselves on the streets. The Minister of Community and Social Services has developed some programs. We have developed some responses in trying to help fund programs for supportive housing and we are working to co-ordinate our efforts with the Minister of Housing to do other things to help ex-psychiatric patients. We are working on that and I have the co-operation of the members of the cabinet in coming to grips with a very real and difficult question.

I have spent some time touring houses in Parkdale, in the area which has generally been the focus of the difficulties which ex-psychiatric patients have had over the years. I was not pleased with some of the facilities I saw. We are working hard at coming to grips with that and with providing better housing and better support for those people in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Grossman: While I do not agree with the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) on very many issues, it is the height of gall for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to suggest that the member for Bellwoods has difficulty understanding the issues. With respect, we suggest the minister does not understand the urgency of this issue.

I suspect the minister has not read the Gerstein report in detail and is not in a position to comment on it in detail. It is important to note that he ignored the Gerstein report in his answer and said he would comment tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable member should get things straight for a change.

Mr. Grossman: The minister is having a bad day; it is going to get worse.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Place your question please.

Mr. Grossman: Is the minister prepared unequivocally to commit to spend as much on solving the ex-psychiatric patient problem as he is prepared to spend to pay dentists for being opted into the Ontario health insurance plan?

Hon. Mr. Elston: First, if there was some misunderstanding as to what I said to the member for Bellwoods, it was that I would reply on the inquest information because I did not have information on that item, as was suggested. If there is a misunderstanding, I apologize to the member for Bellwoods and I apologize to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), who has a way of misunderstanding a great deal.

We are making efforts to provide money to come to grips with a problem which has been there for some time. We have provided supportive housing for three new projects in Toronto and we are not unaware of the Gerstein report as the member indicated. We have followed it quite thoroughly.

Mr. Reville: It will be shocking for the House to know that those three projects account for about 30 beds and we have a couple of thousand people needing this kind of service.

For the minister's information–

Mr. Speaker: By way of question.

Mr. Reville: By way of question, has the minister not read the verdict in the Nasser inquest and the verdict in the Mizrahi inquest which say he should implement Riva Gerstein's report?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have seen those. I am not familiar with all the details on the spur of the moment. I will make myself more familiar with those items so I can come back and tell the member for Bellwoods, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) and all members what those things said and what action we have taken.

The Gerstein report is very important to us and we in the Ministry of Health are doing a great deal to bring ourselves into line with implementing a number of those recommendations.

SUGAR INDUSTRY

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Would the minister clearly state his position on the issue of a floor price for imported sugar?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: There are a lot of ramifications to the sweet sugar policy. We have written to Mr. Mayer. We have said that whatever he is prepared to do for the sugar beet growers in western Canada, he has to give the

same consideration to the high-fructose producers in this province.

However, if we were to support a floor price of 25 cents or even 20 cents, the member has to understand what that would do to the processors and end users of the product in this province and in this country. It has a lot more ramifications than he would care to believe.

Mr. Stevenson: I bring to the attention of the minister that we have plants in London, Port Colborne and Cardinal. We have a 16-million-bushel market that amounts to about $60 million a year to the corn farmers in Ontario. We are very much aware of the energy that the minister put into other programs of essentially the same value. Why is he not putting the same energy into maintaining this portion of the domestic market as he is putting into other issues of similar value?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I do not know what more I can do. As the member well knows, the sugar policy is a federal matter. Many months ago I contacted my counterparts in Ottawa and stressed that they had to give consideration to the high-fructose producers in this province if they are going to give consideration to establishing a floor price for the sugar beet producers in western Canada. I have written to the federal minister; I have sent him a telegram. I have been endeavouring to protect the high-fructose sugar industry in this province, but it is a federal matter.

SAFETY ON TRANSIT VEHICLES

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. On July 12 my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) and I wrote to the minister asking him to respond to a serious safety problem resulting from overcrowding at the front of city transit vehicles. Although we have not received a response to our letter, I am sure he has had plenty of time to study this situation.

Is the minister prepared to amend the Public Vehicles Act to require a white line at the front of city transit vehicles behind which passengers have to stay?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the honourable member for his question. I am well aware of his position regarding the white line issue. We do not have time in this session, as the member knows, to introduce anything new in legislation. This issue has been under review for some time. At the request of the member and his colleague, I agreed to meet Mr. Johnson from the Amalgamated Transit Union on this issue. We did so and it is interesting to note that he did not raise this issue.

Mr. Hayes: Neither did the minister, I gather.

Now that the minister has met with the transit union workers and is aware of the problem, will he assure us that he will finally take some action to remedy this very serious situation?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am sure the member is aware that there is a net dollar cost relative to this issue. While it is not the deciding factor–

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What about the accidents?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The only accident that was reported to me dates back to 1946.

I assume the members opposite will ensure their support of funding for added buses that may be needed to address the issue.

PLANT SHUTDOWN

Mr. Hennessy: I direct my question to the Minister of Natural Resources. Great Lakes Forest Products in Thunder Bay announced today it is closing its waferboard plant in that city with a loss of 150 jobs. As well, in a news conference today the company said that the Ministry of Natural Resources did not fully co-operate with Great Lakes. How can the minister ignore the loss of 150 jobs?

Mr. Mancini: I cannot believe that.

Mr. Hennessy: The member does not believe anything.

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not think it is as easy as that. I have a note before me that deals with this issue, and there is something more than the involvement of the Ministry of Natural Resources to resolve this problem. There is a difficulty there with management and union on where to get their raw materials for the waferboard plant. We are doing everything we can to co-operate to help resolve the problem. I am sure the union and management are attempting in every way to resolve their differences. I will be helpful to the member in any way I can to resolve the issue.

Mr. Hennessy: With all due respect, that is not good enough. It is easy to blame somebody else. That is what the minister has been doing since he took office.

In all fairness, will the minister get in touch with Great Lakes Forest Products and try to save these 150 jobs? At the top of the announcement, Natural Resources was stated to be the culprit. It was to blame for the 150 jobs being lost in the city of Thunder Bay. The minister should not blame somebody else.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sure the honourable member is not suggesting I am blaming someone

else. What I have said is that we have talked to the people in the mill. They have described the problem as being a difficulty in getting the raw materials.

Mr. Gordon: What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have just explained what we are doing about it. We are doing everything we can to resolve the problem. We are going to resolve the problem by helping to make sure material flows to the mill. Right now the resolution has to come between the union and management. We are doing everything we can to co-operate.

Mr. Gordon: The minister is going to do nothing. He does not care about jobs in the north.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member can say what he will, but those are the facts.

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister tell us specifically what steps he and his colleagues are going to take to ensure that the plant stays open?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is a good question, an excellent question, a very sensible question. I plan to have people from my ministry meet with the management and the union to see how we can be helpful.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Premier. With the closing of the bids for the Urban Transportation Development Corp. today at five o'clock, will the Premier give the Legislature the assurance that no bids will be accepted or finalized by his government until a committee of this Legislature has had a chance to review them?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot give the honourable member that assurance. However, let me tell him what assurances I will give. It is my intention to consult widely on this matter, as I have said before, and to have every single thing that is done by this government reviewed. I am mindful of the fact it will have to be subjected to a very high degree of scrutiny. There will be people who disagree with what we do, no matter what we do.

As the member said, we are anticipating the close of those bids today at five o'clock. They will be analyzed very carefully. We are most concerned about maintaining those jobs. However, I cannot give the member the exact assurance he would like to have because of the time frames involved.

Mr. Foulds: Does the Premier not understand he is in danger of doing the same thing the federal government did with de Havilland, that is, signing a deal secretly without a public review of the benefits of the deal? Will he give us an assurance that he will not okay any deal that leaves the taxpayers holding the bag for the liabilities of UTDC and the private sector gaining the profits and assets of UTDC?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I read that editorial in the Toronto Star as well. The taxpayers of the province are carrying that liability at this point, even when they hold the company. The member assumes there is some great asset against which they can prepare for those liabilities. The member's response to this matter is not one that understands the reality of how that company has functioned in the past or will function in the future, whether the taxpayers own it or whether it is owned by private enterprise.

Obviously, we are concerned about the ongoing liabilities. They exist. The member will recall that the former government signed a $300-million bond in order to sell that system to Vancouver. The member is liable for that and so am I, whether we have the company or not. If the company went bankrupt tomorrow, we would still carry that liability. In that sense, it is not one from which we can unburden ourselves.

The only real guarantee is the viability of the technology. I am concerned about the jobs and the ongoing viability of that company. This transaction is in extremely competent hands.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier alleges his government has no walls or barriers, but refuses to guarantee that this Legislature will have an opportunity to peruse that deal before the government agrees to sell UTDC. When he says he will "consult widely," and those were his words, can he specifically tell us with whom he is going to consult? Will that include the unions and, if so, which ones? Will it include people in the private sector and, if so, whom? Will it include the political parties in this assembly? For example, will it include the New Democratic Party, which is part of the accord, or will it not? Whom is the Premier going to consult?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The point is that I will consult widely. I am very mindful that governments that do not consult widely and take people into their confidence can make horrible mistakes. I look back to a government that spent $650 million on an oil company. If it had asked anybody in the private sector or anybody with

any brains, it never would have done it. It is a move the member supports to this day.

We have very competent people who advise on these matters. We are mindful of the fact that jobs are one of the most important issues at stake, as well as many other commercial considerations. When we make up our minds, we will be satisfied we have the best advice possible. Unfortunately, I hate to say it, but that does not include the member because he has not demonstrated judgement that was that good in the past.

Mr. Timbrell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We were informed around 1:30 p.m. that there would be no ministers absent. I see four ministerial seats physically vacant. Since my next question was to be to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling)–

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would love to help the member. However, I have nothing to do with that whatsoever. It really is not a point of order.

LICENSING OF TRUCKERS

Mr. Gregory: I have had a great deal of difficulty making myself heard. I have also been having a great deal of difficulty getting an answer to a question I asked the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I can understand this because apparently he has been wrestling with white lines on transit buses, which has been taking most of his time.

I am referring to my question on January 31 and a further point of privilege I raised last Thursday. In both cases, I have received no reaction. Will the minister explain his recent decision to allow the dormant licence of a Canadian trucking company, Harkema Express Lines, to be purchased by an American firm at a time when employment levels are unacceptable in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: As I mentioned to the honourable member, the question was being fully answered for him. I inquired of my staff before question period and the answer should be ready tomorrow. The member should be aware the company in question was virtually dormant and very small in nature. The company acquiring it is taking it on to operate what exists now as a very small operation. As I said earlier, I will provide him with more complete information later.

Mr. Gregory: I am quite aware of the situation or I would not have asked the question. The fact is the licences were dormant and not being used. By making this decision, which he made on December 19 and did not remember it, these licences are being sold to an American company to operate American trucks in Ontario with American drivers, who are replacing Canadian workers who are here. I ask the minister to supply this information.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: With respect, in answer to the member's original question, I did not say I did not remember it. Out of respect for the question and since he wanted a proper and complete answer, I said we were attempting to provide him with that.

The member is well aware they are Ontario-Canadian drivers, not American.

Mr. Hayes: Regarding the licences that the member mentioned that have lain dormant that are the property of the government, if this was not a viable operation to begin with, why would the minister put a price list on these and sell them to another corporation?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: If I understood the member, I do not think we were putting a price tag on them. We were attempting to get a dormant operation viable again in the interest of the workers of Ontario.

WETLANDS POLICY

Mr. Laughren: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. It is not about spraying today but about his lack of a wetlands policy for Ontario.

He will know there has been 10 years of study, input and consultation on the part of the previous government and we still do not have a policy. Is it now true that he intends to spend up to two years reviewing feedback from 800 municipalities in the province on the possible wetlands policy? If that is true, does he not think the time for delay is passed and he should bring forth a draft wetlands policy now?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, I do believe we should be bringing forward, as quickly as I can arrange it, a wetlands policy. I am very concerned that we are losing the wetlands and about the impact they have on the high waters. We have lost that retention. We have lost the ability of game and wildlife to have the advantages of wetlands. I shall accelerate the study of the wetlands and be very willing to share it with the members opposite.

Mr. Laughren: I hope the minister is serious in his remarks. I am concerned, however, that at a time when the policy is being drafted, there is an interministerial committee set up to review a possible policy and review the recommendations for the municipalities, but that task force does not

include anyone on it from the Treasury or the Ministry of the Environment. They are certainly two key ministries that we need if we are going to have a sensible wetlands policy.

Will the minister give this House his assurance that those two ministries will be invited to have someone on that interministerial committee?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, I think we will have to have those ministers involved, because if we are going to preserve the wetlands, I am sure there is going to have to be some concessions made for those people who are holding the wetlands. I will take that into account.

Ms. Fish: Will the minister also be bringing forward changes in the taxing laws to enable those who hold wetlands to have preferential property tax payment?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not think it is within my purview, but I will talk to the appropriate minister.

DEMOLITION CONTROL

Mr. McFadden: I have a question of the Minister of Municipal Affairs. On December 18, the minister assured this House that he would introduce legislation to control the demolition of affordable housing by the end of January. Why has he failed to honour this commitment?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The honourable member will realize that our legislative agenda has been a very lengthy one. It is my intention to bring in legislation respecting demolition, I hope late in April or early in May. We will be introducing such legislation.

Mr. McFadden: When increasing numbers of units of affordable housing are being threatened by demolition, what does the minister have to say to senior citizens and other people on fixed incomes when they are in danger of losing the housing they can afford as a consequence of the minister's failure to act at this time? His failure to introduce the legislation simply delays the eventual enactment of that legislation. What does the minister have to say to these senior citizens and others who could be deprived of their housing in the next few months as a result of his failure to act?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: At present, Metro Toronto has the authority to stall the demolition. That is where the authority lies. It is not for me to impose on municipalities, as the former government imposed, instead of consulting and passing on the authority.

Mr. Reville: I can understand the minister's irritation at getting the question from that side of the House, but will he not agree to bring in quickly, in the new session, a comprehensive demolition control policy so that cities and municipalities across Ontario, and not just Metro, can protect their housing stock?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: I guarantee to the honourable member that legislation will be brought in shortly. I have draft legislation on my desk at the present time.

CANADIAN TEXTBOOKS

Mr. Grande: My question is for the Minister of Education in regard to the textbook procurement policy known as Circular 14. In view of what appeared in press reports about a public repudiation of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) by the Minster of Education, and in view of the rejection of the recommendation of the Macaulay Special Committee on the Arts, which recommended the government "amend Circular 14 so the criteria for textbooks selected include the words 'published by Canadian-owned companies,'" and since the minister appears to side with foreign-owned branch plants that control 65 per cent of the textbook market in Ontario, will the minister commit himself to strengthening our home-grown, Canadian-owned book publishing houses and thereby our culture by immediately establishing a review of Circular 14–

Mr. Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Grande: –with a view that over a 10-year period books will be bought from Canadian publishing houses?

Hon. Mr. Conway: As I indicated to Mr. Sheppard of the Globe and Mail, I feel confident that Circular 14 and the policy that underlines it, contain at present a strong pro-Canadian policy that has produced an approved list of publications. The vast majority–I think it is 95 or 96 per cent–is authored and manufactured in Canada. I have indicated to that gentleman and to others that I am quite prepared to work with my colleagues in this government, in this Legislature and elsewhere to increase the participation of Canadian authors and Canadian-owned companies.

The textbook policy of this ministry has a very strong pro-Canadian bias and is the most effective and stringent anywhere in the country.

Mr. Grande: What the Minister of Education just said suggests that a review is not going to take place. Has the minister so soon forgotten the words of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who said, "We would not trade away Canada's heart and

soul"? Why will the minister not move to strengthen this province's cultural industry in the book publishing and textbook sectors, so that the children in our schools can study Canadian books published in Canada and written by Canadians?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have not forgotten the Premier's very wise counsel, but I also note, if my memory serves me correctly, that something in the order of 95 per cent of all the material in Ontario's elementary and secondary schools, the overwhelming majority of textbook materials in Ontario schools, not only is authored by Ontarians or Canadians but is also manufactured in this province or country.

Obviously, I feel strongly that we must have the strongest possible pro-Canadian posture. I think what we have is very good. As I indicated to the journalist and as I am indicating to the House, I am quite prepared to work with the community to see how we can improve on that.

Mr. Davis: Understanding the discrepancy that exists within local boards as to the buying of textbooks and library books, will the Minister of Education give an undertaking to this House that he will review Circular 14 as well as encourage boards to spend more money in providing textbooks and reading materials for the young people in the educational system?

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) will remember, we have discussed this matter privately. There is under way a review of the current ministry regulations as they relate to the amount of dollars dedicated to textbooks in the Ontario school system. That has been the subject of some controversy, as his friend the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) knows. I expect that review to be completed shortly, and I give the honourable member the assurance that it will be shared with the assembly at a early time upon its release.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Mr. Pierce: My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I am sure the minister will recall that in December 1985, the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) asked him whether he had made the Premier (Mr. Peterson) aware of the problems that Ontario construction workers were having in securing employment in Quebec, while Ontario's doors were open to Quebec workers to work in Ontario.

I am sure the minister is also aware that the policy of the New Democratic Party government in Manitoba is to hire only Manitobans on construction projects. It appears the Ontario construction worker now has no place to go. What does the minister propose to do about this inequity?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: As I mentioned to the member for Ottawa South at that time, this will form part of the discussions we will have concerning free trade and interprovincial trade, and it will be raised between the Premiers.

Mr. Pierce: It will be all well and good to bring that up in the summer as a matter for discussion, but I am sure the minister recognizes that the union halls in this province are full of workers looking for work today. Workers are coming in from both sides of the province. What is the minister prepared to do today to ensure Ontario construction workers can get jobs in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I guess this has been mentioned by a few people on this side of the House. The members opposite had more than 42 years to do something about it. However, the honourable member raises a matter that is very important, and I can assure him we will be discussing it both on a first ministers' level and on a ministers' level in the upcoming talks.

MINISTRY'S TIMETABLE

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I have asked the minister a number of questions over the past few months, and in reading and reviewing his answers I have to say they are long on promises and rather short on action.

I will not bore the House by repeating my questions, but I want to remind the minister of a few of the items on which he promised almost immediate action: intervener funding in July 1985; the Salford dump; safe drinking water, and he assured me in November he had been working on a strategy for some time; Ethyl Canada and the St. Clair River in December with a strong regulation and an assurance of immediate action; and on polychlorinated biphenyls in foods, last December he said he would draw all the information together and provide it to members.

Can we expect a whole list of ministerial statements tomorrow, or if not, when we will get some action?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I hate to give this answer because I know the members of the third party will agree with it, but their leader will say it is nothing to cheer about. More has been done in the past seven months than in the previous 42 years. The honourable member's leader will say that is not an accomplishment.

As the member well knows, we have moved in a number of fields to make Ontario a sounder place environmentally. She will recall that six years of procrastination on the part of the previous government was brought to an end as we proclaimed the spills bill to come into effect, dragging the party over there kicking and screaming into acquiescence, it appears at least.

She wanted action on acid rain emissions, and we developed a very strong acid rain program. She wanted us to move in a number of fields that the Speaker will not let me extol at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Not too much more.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We have been making genuine and reasonable progress in all those fields. I would have thought the member, near the end of this session, would be standing to applaud all those efforts and the many new initiatives that will be ongoing.

Mrs. Grier: With the legacy of inaction the minister inherited, there is an awful lot more to be done. While he can take some satisfaction in what has been accomplished, what I am trying to get from the minister is some timetable for specific action that would diminish the amount of pollution that is going into our water and air and that, the minister will acknowledge, has not been diminished by his actions to date.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member mentioned intervener funding and I say to her, because she raised that issue, two issues of interest have come up.

Mr. Stevenson: There is an interesting tangent.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) is on the edge of his seat waiting for this answer.

The member will recall that when a request was made for intervener funding in the Tricil situation, the then Minister of the Environment said, "What a reasonable opportunity to provide that kind of intervener funding to provide the balance and fairness." When the people from 3M in London came to us, we said, "Yes, we will be happy to provide intervener funding because it is very reasonable."

In many of those cases, significant progress has been made; that will be continued and accelerated as we get further on–

Mr. Martel: Is the minister getting paid by the word?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

M. Guindon: J'ai une question pour le ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones. En effet, les libéraux ont promis lors de la campagne électorale du printemps dernier de mettre sur pied une commission sur les services en français. De plus, le 4 septembre 1985, le premier ministre (M. Peterson) a déclaré que cette commission serait créée dans un mois. Finalement, le ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones est même allé plus loin à ce moment-là en déclarant que la commission en question serait mise sur pied deux semaines plus tard.

Ma question est la suivante: Je demande que le ministre nous dise exactement quand lui et son Conseil des ministres se décideront enfin à déposer la loi cadre qui avait été promise depuis si longtemps à la population franco-ontarienne.

3:30 p.m.

L'hon. M. Grandmaître: Je dois rappeler au député de Cornwall, comme je l'ai mentionné tantôt, que l'ordre du jour législatif du nouveau gouvernement libéral est très chargé et que présentement je suis en train de travailler avec mes collègues du Cabinet et du caucus du gouvernement pour présenter un projet de loi qui soit acceptable, non seulement aux trois partis politiques mais à toute la population francophone de l'Ontario. J'ai l'intention de présenter ce projet de loi le plus tôt possible, c'est-à-dire dès notre retour en Chambre.

Mr. Timbrell: That is not what the minister has been telling ACFO.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: The minister is talking out of both sides of his mouth.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The member should ask his leader–

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable members show a little respect for the chair?

Mr. Pope: Never mind the lies up north.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. member: We are on to the minister. It did not work.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am going to leave the chair for five minutes.

Mr. Speaker suspended proceedings at 3:30 p.m.

3:35 p.m.

PETITIONS

ZONING BYLAW

Mr. Hennessy: I have two petitions, for the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître)

and for the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), which read as follows:

"Re: Proposed zoning bylaw, section 34 Planning Act, replacing bylaw No. 828:

"Please accept this notice to you that we, Jack Kydd of the township of O'Connor and Rene Beerthuizen of the township of O'Connor, hereby object to the passing of the above zoning bylaw on the following grounds:..."

It is signed by 150 people.

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ms. Bryden: I have a petition.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"Under the provisions of standing order 33(b), we, the undersigned, request that the annual financial report of the governing council of the University of Toronto for the year ending April 30, 1985, be referred to the standing committee on social development."

This petition, signed by 20 members of the New Democratic Party, will permit the committee to consider and hold public hearings on the proposed closure of the faculty of architecture and landscape architecture at the University of Toronto.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Sargent: I have 400 petition cards from citizens and students of Grey county in opposition to the funding of the Roman Catholic separate secondary schools on the grounds that it will grant special status to one specific denominational group.

There are 400 names here, and 400 will follow this week.

Mr. Henderson: I have a petition:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario is a multiracial, multicultural and multifaith society;

"Whereas the people of Ontario have been well served for decades by a strong and effective public school system;

"Whereas many world-class leaders in business, academic and artistic endeavours and community leadership have been educated and trained in Ontario's public school system;

"We therefore believe that your government's proposal to extend public funding to Roman Catholic separate secondary schools is a backward step because it will grant special status to one specific denominational group and thereby weaken the public school system as it currently exists and discriminate against other denominational groups who may accordingly wish to establish similar publicly funded separate school systems;

"We therefore urge you and your government not to proceed with what we view to be a highly divisive proposal, and we urge you to abandon your proposal for extended funding to separate schools forthwith."

That is signed by Jerry Stein and about 1,000 members of District 12, Etobicoke, of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

ABORTION CLINIC

Mr. Pierce: I rise to present a petition on behalf of 35 citizens of the district of Rainy River with respect to the regulations that are allowing the Morgentaler Clinic to stay in operation. I will not read the "therefore," because it is very lengthy.

3:40 p.m.

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"Whereas both reports of the electoral boundaries commission have recommended that the townships of Thurlow and Tyendinaga, the town of Deseronto and the Tyendinaga Indian reserve be removed from the Hastings-Peterborough constituency;

"Whereas these municipalities are part of Hastings county and work with the provincial and county offices in the city of Belleville, the county seat, rather than offices located in other county seats;

"Whereas these four rural municipalities have a community of interest with other rural municipalities in Hastings-Peterborough;

"Now therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Ontario Legislature to leave the townships of Thurlow and Tyendinaga, the town of Deseronto and the Tyendinaga Indian reserve in the Hastings-Peterborough constituency."

It is signed by 15 members of the Melrose Women's Institute.

I have another petition, which reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:"

I will skip over the middle section, it is the same as the one I just read, and come to the last paragraph:

"Now therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Ontario Legislature to leave the townships of Thurlow and Tyendinaga, the town of Deseronto and the Tyendinaga Indian reserve in the Hastings-Peterborough constituency."

It is signed by 62 Tyendinaga senior citizens.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Harris from the standing committee on public accounts presented its report as follows:

The committee begs to report it has completed its consideration of the report on the audit of forest management activity by the Office of the Provincial Auditor, which was referred to the committee on December 6, 1985.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions be authorized to meet following routine proceedings on Wednesday, February 12, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC SERVICE PAY EQUITY ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved, seconded by Ms. Caplan, first reading of Bill 105, An Act to provide Pay Equity for Employees in Predominantly Female Groups of Jobs in the Public Service.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Ms. Bryden moved, seconded by Mr. Philip, first reading of Bill 106, An Act to amend the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Ms. Bryden: The purpose of the bill is to give the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education the power to grant degrees, including honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates in education.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved, seconded by Mr. Morin, first reading of Bill 107, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: This bill will enable counties to participate in a program that is being initiated by my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) to combat damage to our forests being caused by gypsy moth infestation in eastern Ontario. I hope all members will support this legislation and thus enable counties to participate in this important Ministry of Natural Resources program in eastern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, before I call order 20, I would like to indicate to you and the clerks at the table that an agreement has been reached among the three parties that the debate on this order will be completed at 5:50 p.m. so a vote may be taken. We have requested that the final 30 minutes be reserved for the minister and that the intervening time be shared equally between the two opposition parties.

Mr. Wildman: That is all very reasonable.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Whatever the time is, it would be approximately 45 minutes. I am sure we have sufficient expertise and electronic technology to work it out for us.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to that allotment of time?

Agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

Mr. Baetz: In the interests of time and to give my esteemed leader ample time for his final words, I will confine my remarks to what I believe are some of the basic underlying issues, principles and philosophies of the extra billing controversy.

I believe the issue is not really an administrative, operational or functional one; rather, it is a philosophical one. It is a matter of basic principles and policies. To the extent that there is a lack of clarity and uncertainty about basic policy, there will be an equal amount of uncertainty and consequent disagreement at the administrative and operational levels.

I believe we would all agree and support the idea that basic services provided by our health care system should be universal, accessible to all on an equal basis, regardless of ability to pay. Moreover, we would all likely agree that this

system is based on certain established rights and that these basic services should therefore be provided as a right rather than as some privilege that can be arbitrarily extended or withdrawn.

We should not allow our mental processes to be muddied by thinking that health care in Ontario is an insurance. It has long ago lost all the fundamental vestiges of an insurance program, and indeed the Liberals were about to remove the last one with the removal of premiums.

Much of the confusion arises over the fact that many people assume all rights are exactly the same: a right is a right is a right. In reality, there are essentially two different types or categories of rights. The first are those traditional and clearly defined: legal, civil and political rights that deal with the rights and freedoms of the individual. These rights are refined and protected through our common law. The essence of these rights is that they guarantee the equality of all individuals. Under these rights, we are all treated equally at all times and in all circumstances.

3:50 p.m.

There is a second category of rights, namely, social rights, sometimes called collective rights. Social rights are a relatively new concept in social policy and have been fully developed only since the Second World War. This concept was brought together for the first time in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, followed by the covenant of 1966. Articles 22 to 26 deal exclusively with social rights, and article 25 especially is the cornerstone of much social legislation around the world since then. It states in part: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."

There is a fundamental difference between the traditional legal, civil and political rights on the one hand and the more recent concepts of social rights on the other. The difference is that the former guarantee equality for all under all circumstances, while the latter guarantee equality for all, but only up to an adequate level in the provision of income, housing, education, health care, etc.

For example, the right to an adequate income, while it may apply to every member of the population, extends up to only a certain minimum level, after which people are on their own. Likewise, the social right to adequate housing extends only to a certain adequate level and does not guarantee a home on the Bridle Path. The right to an education extends only to a certain level for all people, beyond which individuals are on their own.

It is also important to note that levels of adequacy are relative. What is regarded as adequate varies from time to time and from country to country. It is determined by prevailing social values of the governing society and, above all, by the economic resources available to any country.

The basic question then is, on what kind of rights is our health care system based? Is it built on legal, civil and political rights or on social rights? I suspect that because this question has rarely been clearly addressed or concisely answered, it is the cause of much debate and controversy, including that over extra billing.

I believe our health care system is based on social rights rather than on legal or civil rights. It is based on social rights that have been implemented and supported by federal and provincial legislation. The level of service guaranteed as a right by legislation is very high because our value system and our widely accepted scale of public priorities places health care at the very top of all our programs that are based on social rights.

The manner in which health care costs have escalated during the past decade, compared to those of other social programs based on social rights, such as education, basic income security and housing, clearly reflects the very high priority we have placed on health care. There is no evidence that this scale of priorities will change, but the development of our basic health care system, based as it is on social rather than on legal rights and limiting its guarantees to adequate levels, will develop in both quantity and quality on the basis of our social priorities and the economic resources available.

If the right to health care were a legal and civil one, there could be no talk whatever of affordability. Our legal and civil rights are inalienable and are not subject to prevailing social priorities and economic restraints.

No doubt there are those who would argue that our health care system is and should be based on legal and civil rights rather than on the more limited social rights. They would probably point to older, more developed social democratic countries as examples of where health care programs are based on and do try to function on the egalitarian principle of civil and legal rights.

I would dispute their observations. In my eight years as elected president of the 84-member-nation International Council on Social Welfare, I had a golden opportunity to meet with social policy leaders in many countries on all conti-

nents. I know of no country in the world where the health care system actually operates on the basis of legal and civil rights in a purely egalitarian manner, even if it may have started out to do so.

Quite a few members here like to cite Britain as the shining example. Sir William Beveridge, the master builder of the post-Second-World-War social security system, including health care, probably did not worry very much about whether the system was built on legal or on social rights. He was essentially a systems and organization man and not a social philosopher. He was convinced his proposed system would be so efficient that in a few years' time the backlog of health care needs would be met and costs would sink.

The then Minister of Health, Mr. Bevan, was less sanguine; as a politician he was probably more aware of human nature. However, he was convinced that the monolithic, all-inclusive national health care scheme would work if he spent enough money virtually to bribe everyone to participate. He got the British Meal Association to agree because, in his words, "I stuffed their mouths with gold."

We all know what happened to the National Health Service. It staggered and folded under its own bureaucracy, its own weight of ever-growing universal demand and a stifling bureaucratic delivery system.

Mr. Rae: Rubbish.

Mr. Wildman: What has Thatcher done about it?

Mr. Baetz: I will give the member some facts. While 56 million Britons are entitled by right to full, free health care and equal accessibility, in reality at any given time, some 650,000 patients are waiting for 350,000 places.

Mr. Wildman: Even Margaret Thatcher does not agree with this.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Baetz: To alleviate this unsurmountable pressure for health care through the central health services system, many Britons have been permitted and even encouraged to turn to private care outside the national scheme. The trade unions, the vehement opponents of private medical care, now enrol many of their members in private plans along with some 10 million Britons.

In conclusion, the basic policy issue facing us on the extra billing question is the following:

Is our health care system a purely egalitarian one, based on civil and legal rights that guarantee but also restrict all patients to an equal level of service at equal cost in any and all circumstances, or is the system based on social rights that guarantee an adequate level–and in our case, that is a very high level of service for all–at an equal cost but allow the patients and doctors the right to contract for extra service at extra cost to the individual patient?

If the system is the latter, as I believe it should be, it surely allows for some personal choice by patients and doctors, provided the basic guarantees for all have been met as a social right.

By outlawing all extra billing, as it will, even if the doctors have met their basic guarantees, this bill will attempt to force our health care program into the straitjacket of one monolithic, inflexible, bureaucratically run system where accessibility and standard of care will ultimately be reduced to the lowest common denominator. As I said before, this system has not functioned in any part of the world to everyone's satisfaction.

In pursuit of this goal, the bill will seriously infringe upon the civil and legal rights of personal choice, the right to contract for the doctors; and the rights of doctors and the patients will be removed.

Finally, the traditional rights, responsibilities and privileges of the doctors arising out of their free association in the Ontario Medical Association will be seriously eroded. No trade union would tolerate such an intrusion and erosion of its mandate. All these rights–the right of personal choice, the right to contract, the right to freedom of association–are essential elements in our free, democratic society.

Mr. Wildman: Why did the member introduce Bill 179?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Baetz: Those rights are the distinguishing features that separate us from the planned socialist state.

This is the issue the minister has so far refused to discuss even though he may honestly feel he has done so. The quotation in the Toronto Star on Tuesday, February 4, is the most revealing in this respect. The minister is quoted as saying: "I have always been willing to discuss the issue with doctors. What I am not willing to negotiate is maintaining extra billing...." That is the only issue.

I urge the minister to lay down his pistol and sit down with the doctors to discuss some of these very basic issues, policies and philosophies with them. Once the minister has reached consensus on those basic principles, he will undoubtedly reach agreement on those practical obstacles that are or appear to be standing in the way of

guaranteeing the social right of basic health services to all regardless of cost.

I am confident the doctors, through their association, could very quickly meet the practical requirements we are all looking for. However, if the minister insists on stubbornly pressing on with the bill without prior discussion of the basic issues involved, I very much fear our health care system, which must constantly strive to reach the ever-receding horizons, will falter and accessibility for all, and even basic services, will become only a sad memory and an unanswered dream.

Finally, in the negotiations the minister should be carrying on with the doctors, he should learn the mistake of Health Minister Bevan, that he cannot make it work without the doctors' co-operation and that he cannot make the doctors co-operate simply by stuffing gold into their mouths. In this case, it is principles that are more at issue than gold.

4 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I want to start the debate by agreeing with both the member who has just spoken and the Ontario Medical Association in one respect. I agree with Dr. Myers or the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz) or any other spokesman for the OMA when they say the debate and the issue is not a narrow one, but an issue that reflects on some very fundamental questions, not only about our health care system, but about our society. It does involve some very basic questions about our values. I also want to state that my agreement with the member for Ottawa West and with the OMA ends right there.

Our attitude to our health care system reflects two things. It reflects our attitude to health and it reflects our attitude to each other. When I talk about it reflecting our attitude towards health, we have to appreciate that there has been over the years a very real debate among those who have had in their minds, in their policies, in their politics and in their economic structures, the notion of health simply as the absence of disease, the treatment of which should be purchased on an open market. That is a model for those who see the essential problem as a medical business problem.

In the first view, health care is basically the treatment of individual disease, an engineering problem, a medical problem. However, I want to suggest that in the transformation of our society and in the transformation of all societies around the world a different definition of what health is all about has emerged and a different notion of what the health care system should be about.

The member for Ottawa West quoted many learned documents. I would like simply to quote the definition of health as contained in the charter of the World Health Organization, where it says, "Health is the state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." From that definition of health comes a very different definition of our health care system, because it means that wellbeing is a basic human right and that wellbeing is something that society has an obligation to ensure to the very best of its ability. There is a conflict about dollars and about values.

We have those who see health as a vehicle for private profit, a market of wants to be supplied by shrewd and capable professionals, a medical market with health as a commodity. In this regard, I would like to quote what I have found to be an extremely apt description of what that kind of attitude and system are all about. It is contained in a remarkable book recently published by Paul Starr of Harvard University called The Social Transformation of American Medicine.

So much of what we are discussing in this House takes place under the shadow of the increasing commercialization of medicine in the United States. Mr. Starr has these very acute words to say at the end of his book, in the section entitled "The Struggle for Medical Care":

"Those who talked about health care planning in the 1970s now talk about health care marketing. Everywhere one sees the growth of a kind of marketing mentality in health care and, indeed, business school graduates are displacing graduates of public health schools, hospital administrators and even doctors in the top echelons of medical care organizations.

"The organizational culture of medicine used to be dominated by the ideals of professionalism and voluntarism, which softened the underlying acquisitive activity. The restraint exercised by those ideals now grows weaker. The health centre of one era is the profit centre of the next."

That is precisely the context in which this debate is taking place. I am delighted that both the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) are here, because they know full well about the case of the London hospital and about the nature of the presence of private profit-oriented groups that are intensely interested in marketing their activities in the nursing home field, a subject I have been talking about ever since I came to this House.

We are in the middle of a broader and deeper debate about the nature of health and how we promote it. It is a debate about whether we see health as a market to be exploited by capable and shrewd professionals, organizations and corporations, whose entire underlying need is to increase their share of the market and their profits or whether we see health as something else.

Health is something else. It is not a commodity. It is not something to be traded on the open market. It is a basic human right that reflects our attitude to each other. That has to be the principle that is in place. That is what this issue is all about. It is not a narrow issue.

Mr. Pope: Straw man.

Mr. Rae: I see the Tories saying it is a straw man. It is not a straw man. That party has presided over the erosion of the health care system and the increasing presence in our society of corporations that are interested, not in health care as a need but rather in health care as a market. We defeated that government after May 2. I am proud we defeated it and it was in large measure because of this that we did it.

There are those who say we are talking about the socialization of medicine. To those who say that, I say amen; we are talking about the socialization of medicine. We are saying that health is an individual and social right that is too fundamental to be left and treated as a commodity.

In the history of this province and in the history of our country, this is not a new debate. Indeed, in the history of western societies, it is not a new debate. It has been going on for a long time and I suspect it will continue to go on for a long time because of the presence in the United States of a very different kind of society, economy and attitude towards health care.

The notion of a decent public health insurance system that established the principle that health care is not something to be treated as a commodity goes back to many organizations in our country. It goes back to the emergence in the late 19th century of a modern labour movement. It goes back to the organizations that took place in the Prairies after the emergence of the great wheat economy, with the emergence of political parties and movements that were concerned about the ability of people to form a different kind of society together.

It was part and parcel of the work of early labour parties and early democratic socialist parties in this country and in this province. It has been adopted as an objective by countless professional groups, by countless groups of individuals who were concerned about the care people were getting in our emergent society in Ontario in the 20th century.

The objective of a national health insurance plan as a basis for public policy was adopted by the Liberal Party of Canada at a convention in 1919, the same convention that elected Mackenzie King as its leader. The Liberals were only in power between 1921 and 1930, and from 1935 to 1957, so one will certainly have to agree that they hardly had the chance to implement the resolution they adopted at their convention in 1919.

4:10 p.m.

It is interesting, and I think little known, that it was a government in British Columbia in 1932 that passed a bill that covered people earning less than $2,400 a year, which was never proclaimed or implemented because of the systematic opposition of the British Columbia Medical Association between 1932 and 1937. It was finally dropped.

We have to turn to Saskatchewan to find the origin of a truly social health insurance plan, beginning with municipal plans, a plan in the Swift Current area which included everybody who lived in the region, a movement designed to eliminate tuberculosis in Saskatchewan, so that in the 1930s and 1940s Saskatchewan had the lowest rate of TB of any province in Canada, and culminating, as we all know, with the election in 1944 of the first Co-operative Commonwealth Federation government, indeed the first democratic socialist government at provincial or state level in North America.

It was Mr. Douglas who introduced, first, hospital insurance. We have to think of the courage it took for a provincial government to initiate on its own a hospital insurance program without any assistance whatsoever from the federal government. That assistance was held up consistently throughout the 1950s by Ontario. It was Ontario that said, "We will not have a national plan, and until we have one, you cannot give any money to anybody else."

One has only to read the recently published memoirs of Paul Martin to understand just how profound was the opposition of Ontario under the Tories to hospital and health insurance during the 1950s, to appreciate the courage that was exemplified by the Douglas government, going ahead on its own with hospital insurance.

It was after 1959 that Mr. Douglas announced that the government was not going to stop at hospital insurance. It was going to introduce a comprehensive health insurance plan which would contain the basic principle that no one

would suffer or be forced to pay private insurance. No one would be forced to pay doctors directly. There would be a universally accessible plan that would be fair to the profession and the citizens of the province.

When the minister introduced this legislation in the House, he referred to Mr. Justice Emmett Hall as the father of medicare. I had to laugh at that point. I realize central casting has given all Liberal ministers instructions not to mention any New Democrat, the accord or anything else in any conversation, speech or otherwise. I just want to quote for the record what Emmett Hall said about Tommy Douglas.

He wrote to him in 1971, as Mr. Douglas was retiring from the leadership of the New Democratic Party, and said: "I just cannot let the occasion pass without writing to say that Canada is very much a better country in which to live by reason of your contributions in the political and social action fields.

"I think your greatest and enduring accomplishment was the introduction and putting into effect of medicare in Saskatchewan. Without your program as a successful one in being, I could not have produced the unanimous report for the Canada-wide universal health recommendations in 1964. If the scheme had not been successful in Saskatchewan, it would not have become nationwide. Generations to come will be your debtors."

I do not think any of us could put more eloquently than those words of Mr. Justice Hall the debt the people of Canada owe to Mr. Douglas for the courage he showed in introducing medicare to Saskatchewan in 1962.

It was a tough, tough battle. I do not know what the minister has been reading at night. If he is like me, that is the only time he gets to read anything. I suggest he take some comfort as he meets the challenges he faces. He can take some comfort from the courage that was shown by a government that had no friends anywhere in Canada. It was called every name in the book by those powerful vested interests opposed to any change. It was vilified up and down the country, opposed by the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan–at that time under Mr. Thatcher–the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the Canadian Medical Association and the entire insurance industry in this country. That government had the guts to proceed and prevail. I hope this government has the same kind of courage when it is faced with the opposition of vested interests.

I have been reading for some time about what has gone on in the past regarding this issue. I want to quote from a comment, a remembrance by Dr. Orville Hjertaas, who was one of the few doctors who had the courage to practise during the strike in 1962. I am quoting from Weekend Magazine of July 15, 1978.

"Dr. Hjertaas describes a situation where a child with an acute appendicitis attack needed an immediate operation. Dr. Hjertaas browbeat a local anaesthetist into assisting by threatening to announce on radio and television that the anaesthetist was abandoning the child. That worked only once. Two subsequent patients having spontaneous miscarriages had to be turned over to the hospital emergency committee.

"He says: 'They lay in bed at the hospital for a week bleeding. No one took them to the operating room to be scraped. That was the kind of pressure tactic they used. I came into one of the women's rooms one night and found her husband sitting beside her in tears, a great big man with tears coursing down his face watching his wife helplessly.'

"At the end of the first week of the strike, a British anaesthetist parachuted in by the government arrived at the clinic. Shortly after dawn on a Sunday, Hjertaas and the anaesthetist slipped the two women into the hospital operating room for a D and C. 'That did not endear me to the profession,' said Hjertaas wryly."

Where was Ontario when this great battle was going on? Nowhere to be seen. Ontario was on the side of the insurance industry. Ontario's government was the captive of the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association. We had a half-baked bill brought in by John Robarts in 1966 which would have left 40 per cent of the patients excluded from the system.

It is interesting to look at the reaction of the Tories to those great debates in the 1960s and early 1970s. A comment made in Mr. Robarts's most recent biography is that one of the things John Robarts regretted most about the time he was the Premier was the fact, as he puts it, "Medicare was rammed down the throats of the people of Ontario by the Pearson government in Ottawa." That is where the Tories have stood on this issue. That has been their contribution to this historic debate.

With the work of the minority governments in the mid-1960s, we finally made medicare the law, not only in Saskatchewan but across Canada. We forced the changes in Ontario until we finally moved to the Ontario health insurance plan system, proclaimed in 1971.

The health care system that has been built by the people of this province is one of the achievements of which we as a people can be most proud. To extend, deepen and strengthen that system is one of the greatest political tasks of our time, and it is not one we are going to be turned away from because of the vested interests of the Tory party or the vested interest in the insurance industry or the vested interest in the Ontario Medical Association.

4:20 p.m.

People talk about what the medical association's position has been. I speak as one who is the grandson of a doctor and the nephew of a doctor and I see doctors almost every day in my wife's family. It is not a question of the individual or professional integrity of our doctors in Ontario; it is a question of the opposition of the OMA with its historic, deep-seated failure to understand that the idea of universal accessibility is so dear to the hearts of the people of this province that they simply will not have it denied.

It is regrettable that we are in the middle of a very difficult conflict, but if there has to be a conflict, then all I can say is let us resolve it with courage, but let us always resolve it in favour of the people of the province and not in favour of a vested interest that has always been opposed to the extension of health care. They opposed it in British Columbia in the 1930s, they opposed it in Saskatchewan in the 1960s and they opposed it in Ontario in the 1960s and the 1970s. They have always opposed the notion of universal medical care itself. We have to bear that in mind when we examine the position of the Ontario Medical Association today.

With respect to the problem of extra billing, I want to suggest that our party took up the cudgel once we had moved the country and the province to the point of accepting the need for a universal scheme. We launched a campaign in the late 1970s, a petition that was signed by more individuals in this province than any other petition presented to the Legislature up to that time.

One of the very first experiences I had as an elected federal member was meeting with a woman in my constituency office in the fall of 1978 and being told by her that she was being charged an extra $400 for surgery on her shoulder. I can remember the argument and the discussions we had in our caucus federally. I can particularly remember them because Tommy Douglas was completing his career on the federal scene in the six months prior to the election of May 1979. I can remember the eagerness and determination with which Tommy encouraged our federal leader to take up the case and raise it, as we did raise it consistently throughout that period, to get the federal government to move. We had members here, the former Health critic behind me and sitting with me, who raised the issue consistently.

I want to recite a few of those cases so people will remember how serious this problem is and how much it has contributed to a sense in the province that extra billing does amount to a barrier and does raise a problem. I want to quote a few if I may.

A constituent of my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) called to complain about extra bills she had received for medical services performed by an ophthalmologist in Toronto. The amount extra billed for the first visit was $15.20. The amount extra billed for the second, an operation, was $687.20; that is 180 per cent above the OHIP rate. On June 22, 1983, the amount extra billed was $218, for a total of $920.88. The family depends upon Mr. Stewart's salary, which is $18,000 annually. That is the reality for the Stewart family of Sudbury East.

A member of another family living in Willowdale, who has asked that the name not be used, had coronary bypass surgery on September 3, 1980. The amount extra billed was $600. This would not be so onerous if it were not for the fact that Mrs. C has had a series of operations on nose, ear and eye related to cancer and the side-effects of the treatment she took in 1981. To correct the problem, Mrs. C was obliged to see four doctors in all, and each and every one of them overbilled.

Another case I raised in the House occurred on April 29, 1983. A woman was advised, while her daughter was sitting undressed in her hospital room ready for a tonsillectomy, that the anaesthetist's charges would exceed the OHIP rate. I am sure the House will recall that case, because it forced the government to make some changes. She then proceeded to receive a letter from the managing partner of a group called Don Valley Anaesthetists, which said: "It is also apparent that you were misinformed as there is only one fee schedule for medical services in Ontario and that is the rate published by the Ontario Medical Association."

What arrogance. Here we have people who have been practising for years under the Ontario health insurance plan and they are pretending it never happened, as if the only rate in effect was the rate established by the OMA.

She then received three invoices from Don Valley Anaesthetists and finally a letter from Dixon Commercial Investigators Ltd., a multinational company retained by Don Valley Anaesthetists to collect the account. The letter she received from that group contained the wording, "Your credit record is an open book." That is just one example.

Let me give another example of a gentleman in London who visited a hospital for eye surgery. He was extra billed for each consultation as well as for the hospital visit and the anaesthetist's services. The services charged to him amounted to more than $300.

I could go on and I will raise a couple of other examples because they describe how serious the problem was, is and remains. There are those who say it is not a problem. All I say is that they are flying in the face of the facts that have been presented and have been expressed by every senior citizens' organization and by people who are faced with a virtual monopoly of anaesthetists, for example, who are opted out, a whole slew of psychiatrists who are opted out, a whole range of obstetricians and gynaecologists who are opted out in given areas and where there is no choice given to the patient.

The member for Ottawa West spoke about the importance of choice. What choice do people have who are going in to have an operation where every doctor in that hospital is opted out and insists on an extra fee? What level of choice is there in countless parts of the province where the only specialists available are those who have opted out?

For example, there is the letter raised by my colleague the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), whose election to this House added a breath of fresh air to the entire place. I am sure we all agree. This is a form letter from a doctor to a constituent who was told she would have to pay $3,000 for an operation, of which only $1,700 would be reimbursed. The form letter from the doctor states as follows:

"It is the responsibility of the patient to pay the doctor's invoice in full within 30 days of the date stamped at the top of invoice. After that time, interest is charged on the outstanding balance at a rate of two per cent per month."

Who do these guys think they are? Who is better able to afford to carry the cost of slowness in receiving an OHIP cheque: a doctor making $125,000 a year or somebody who has to get by on $15,000 or $20,000 a year? Where do these doctors get off sending these kinds of letters to people and then coming to us and saying: "It is not a matter of money. It is a matter of principle." Give me a break. Surely to goodness, people can see the situation for what it is.

This is a woman who had to spend more than $3,000 on 14 day trips to prepare for this operation. I add that the letter was written before we managed to change the situation with respect to people having to travel for medically necessary care.

For those who say, "The problem is one of yesteryear," I want to mention a case brought to my attention today by my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). The surgeon gynaecologist's bill is $1,005. OHIP will pay $469. That is an extra billing amount of 114 per cent. In addition, he has been told the anaesthetist will probably bill 40 per cent over the OHIP rate. The family has to agree to pay his bill within two weeks of the surgery. This is for a cancer operation.

Where were the Tories throughout these years? They told us it was not a problem or an issue. The then Minister of Health, now the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), had all sorts of excuses. He said, "The only people who get extra billed are rich people." We asked him time and again and he never once produced a single fact to back that up. He just said it as a matter of faith. He knew that. The only people who were extra billed were rich people from Toronto.

He was even in Sarnia the other day saying the same thing. He said: "Extra billing is a Toronto issue. It is one of these other yuppie issues such as clean water. It is another one of those yuppie issues that nobody else has bothered about except for yuppies." I have news for the former minister; we remember what he said.

4:30 p.m.

What else did he say? After receiving a letter from my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), who has done such a marvellous job in recent years on this issue as our health care critic, the Minister of Health at that time stated: "The total surgical fee of $1,200 charged by the ophthalmologist is $200 more than the OMA rates. His other charges have not exceeded the OMA rates," as if that should matter at all.

The OMA rate is negotiated by doctors, with doctors, for doctors. It is not a rate that is set by tough, hard bargaining among the OMA. It is a rate that is settled by the profession itself. It is not negotiated with anybody. It is established out of thin air by the profession itself.

It says, "The anaethetists' fee is the OMA rate, and the reimbursement that they receive is in accordance with the OHIP schedule of benefits." He then goes on to say:

"I would suggest that Mrs. D discuss the matter of the extra billing with her physician. It is our experience that opted-out physicians frequently reduce or waive the extra fees in cases of financial hardship."

Charity medicine should have gone out decades ago. Charity medicine should have been killed off in Saskatchewan in 1962. It was, for them. It should not exist in Canada and Ontario today. We should not have Ministers of Health saying to people, "If you want to settle your disputable fee with your doctor, get down on your knees and tell them how badly off you are," and that will settle the issue.

I want to quote something that Tommy Douglas said in 1959 in the Saskatchewan Legislature when he introduced the principle of medical care to Saskatchewan. He said:

"I want to say that the time is surely past when the people should have to depend on proving need in order to get services that should be the inalienable right of every citizen of a good society. It is all very well for some people to say that there is no stigma or humiliation connected with having to prove need. This is always said by people who know that they are in no danger of ever having to prove need themselves."

When I see the letter of the Minister of Health, I think of what Tommy Douglas said in 1959 in his eloquent reply to that kind of answer from a Minister of Health or from doctors who say that they are the ones who should be assessing need, that they are the ones in a position to assess whether there is a problem.

What has the response of the OMA been to this legislation? The response has been this. I think it has basically been sixfold. I want to deal with those six arguments.

The first thing they have said is: "It is not extra billing; it is balanced billing. It has something to do with the OMA schedule." I have had doctors come into my office, very sincere people, and say: "Mr. Rae, I wish you would not keep using that phrase 'extra billing.' It is not extra; it is balanced. All we are doing is charging the balance between the OMA schedule and the schedule that is negotiated with the government and paid for by OHIP."

All I can say to the OMA is: "Please, with respect to that argument, come into the 20th century. Recognize the fact that the rate that matters to the people of this province is the rate that they have to pay. If they have to pay you an amount over and above the rate that is given to them by OHIP, it is extra for the people. Let us stop the notion of balance and all the other fictitious arguments pulled out of the air. It is extra. It comes out of people's pockets. It is money they have to pay. It is money they are spending on that that they cannot spend on other things. It is extra. It is not balanced; it is extra."

The second argument they make is that it is not a barrier. I have heard this argument expressed by the leader of the Tory party: "Let the doctors judge. Let the doctors judge because they know." I have seen it quoted again recently in this debate. The doctors said: "I know whether a patient needs it. I have a sense as to whether they need it. I can tell whether they are on welfare. I know my patients well. I can judge whether they can afford it."

That occupational arrogance is ill suited to a profession working in the field of health. It is not up to doctors to determine what people's incomes are. It is not up to doctors to determine whether they feel somebody else is in need. That is not the job of doctoring. That is not what doctoring is all about, and it is time we put that argument to rest.

I am not interested in discussing my financial affairs with my doctor, and I do not think any other patient is either. I do not think they should have to discuss their financial affairs with their doctors. To quote from Mr. Douglas again: "That argument is always made by people who know they are in no danger of having to prove need." How true that is.

The other argument we hear from the Ontario Medical Association is that the right to extra bill recognizes seniority, to which I will simply say: "Rubbish, it does no such thing." There is no way of telling whether a doctor who has opted out or who extra bills is senior to somebody who stays in the system. There is no evidence anywhere in the province to suggest the basis upon which people extra bill is whether they are senior to someone else. That is factually incorrect.

What we do know is that extra billing and opting out follows a pattern. It is a pattern that has nothing to do with seniority. It has everything to do with peer pressure, with the ways in which certain groups in a monopoly situation can work in certain areas and with the ways in which certain specialties are more determined than others to opt out for a variety of historical and other reasons.

The fourth argument I have heard is that it destroys the doctor-patient relationship and means a return to what they call assembly-line

medicine. To this I can only say that every factual study establishes clearly and definitively that there is no basis for the argument that doctors who extra bill spend more time with their patients than doctors who do not extra bill.

I am constantly amazed at those same doctors who say this is not a dispute about money or dollars. Those same doctors who say that say equally quickly: "If I am not allowed to extra bill, the entire attitude I have to the treatment of my patients will be radically transformed."

I say to those doctors as kindly as I can that they cannot have it both ways. Doctors cannot simply say, as one doctor has in a letter to his patients, written in 1986: "Until now, we have been able to afford the extra cost of mailing prescriptions or phoning them in. I will no longer be able to do this. My patients recognize I spend more time and do a very comprehensive examination. I will now be forced to see more patients in the same time with a minimum examination."

How sacred can the doctor-patient relationship be to a professional whose entire attitude to the treatment of his patients is transformed overnight by a change in his economic circumstances? It troubles me deeply, just as the incident I described yesterday troubles me very deeply.

There are two other arguments we hear from the profession I want to touch on because I think they are fundamental. The first argument is that extra billing is the essential element of a free profession. The second argument is that it is not the real problem. I want to touch on these issues.

This bill to end extra billing is only an attack on professionalism if one equates professionalism with a market relationship with an individual patient. If that is the definition of professionalism then, yes, a ban on extra billing represents a problem for that kind of attitude towards professionalism. However, it is not an attack on professionalism. It is a rejection of the view that to be free and autonomous, the medical profession has to have a business or market relationship with the patient.

4:40 p.m.

Professional autonomy is not being attacked in any way whatsoever. What is being attacked is the cash nexus in health care. That is what is being attacked and that is what deserves to be attacked. The trick is to do it in such a way as to preserve professional autonomy.

I say to the OMA with great respect, and I have said this to Dr. Moran, the focus of its concern about the passage of this bill should be the way it relates to the government and the nature of the way it bargains collectively for a fair schedule that will apply across the province. I think the OMA is in danger of missing the entire boat by not focusing on that issue, which is a very legitimate issue for any profession receiving its pay from and dealing with the social insurer of this province, which is the government of Ontario. That is the issue.

We have heard a lot of descriptions of this bill. It is not Russia, it is not conscription, it is not terrorism and it is not rape. It is an insistence that the doctors' economic relationship be with the social insurer and not with the individual patient, and that is all this bill is.

The integrity of the medical profession and the sanctity of the professional health relationship between the doctor and his patient have not been touched or affected in any way whatsoever. That point has to be made again and again. This bill is about the economics of health care. It is about whether patients should be charged or billed directly. It is about whether money should be coming out of patients' pockets for the care they are getting from a doctor. It is not about the autonomy of the medical profession.

I have a higher view of the professionalism of the doctors of this province than to think that can be devastated and taken away simply because the nature of their economic relationship with patients has changed. I am surprised more than I would have thought when I hear doctors saying, as we heard the doctor suggest in the letter to me yesterday, that what this does is throw professionalism out the window. No, it does not. It does so only if one has a very narrow and very economic view, a very acquisitive view, if I may be blunt, of what professionalism is all about.

Professionalism is not about acquisitiveness; it is about service. Professionalism in the field of health care is especially about service. Doctors should be proud of their profession and should have more pride than to suggest it is being taken away because they have to deal with the government collectively rather than with each patient individually.

Finally, there is a suggestion from the medical profession that it is not the real problem. I agree extra billing is not the only problem. I am delighted to hear the doctors coming forward with examples of overcrowding in hospitals. I am delighted to hear the profession is fighting for quality of care. I only wish, if I may suggest so bluntly, they had been as eloquent in the past decade with respect to this problem as they have suddenly become in the past six months, but I am delighted to see them fighting for it.

It is not the only problem. There are deeper problems at stake. There is the future of our health care system, affected, as we all are, by an ageing population, and there is the need to get rid of our hangup about institutionalization and to provide more care at home.

There is the need to get at the environmental and social causes of ill health, to attack the nature of the cancer epidemic that is plaguing us, to deal with the causes of environmental and social stress and to deal with the problems of mental health patients that were touched on so eloquently by my colleagues the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) today.

There is the need to deal with the crisis in disability and the fact that people are not compensated or cared for properly. There is the need to deal with the fact that our delivery systems are antiquated and outdated. There is the need to deal with the fact that our attitude towards community medicine is antediluvian and needs to be transformed. There is the need to deal with the fact that 35 per cent of doctors today are not on a fee-for-service basis and are employees.

These are the key issues of the 1980s and the 1990s that matter and that together we must work towards solving. We must solve them in partnership with the medical profession, but in partnership also with all the other health care professionals who do not extra bill and who do not believe they have a sacred right to a direct relationship with their patients' wallets. We must solve them in partnership with everyone in our society who believes in the transformation of our health care system and who sees it as a system that not only will treat disease once it has broken out but will also genuinely prevent ill health and promote health and physical, mental and social wellbeing. That is the objective of the system, and it is on that basis we must all join together and see that the system is transformed.

When the OMA says it is not the only problem, I agree. When they say it is not a real problem, the evidence is totally to the contrary; it is a real problem.

It will take courage and vision to build this kind of health care system. It will take the courage for us to move beyond some models that have been given to us from the past. It will take toughness to deal with the complete corporatization and privatization of health care we see in the United States, constantly trying to get into Canadian markets, as they call them. That will require courage.

Perhaps I can close with the words of Woodrow Lloyd, who was the Premier of Saskatchewan during that very difficult time of the strike in 1962 which I mentioned. Speaking to a meeting of the Saskatchewan Medical Association, Woodrow Lloyd said:

"We seek not to change the ends of medicine. We do seek to find ways and means to adapt the financing of medical care to 20th-century society and the legitimate expectations of that society. In this, the ancient mission of medicine need not be lost. Its achievement can be advanced. I invite you to join in a bold attempt to consolidate past gains and to move towards new horizons in the field of medical care."

Those are good words for this debate and for the future of Ontario. We will be supporting the passage of this bill tonight, with pride as its real authors.

Mr. Grossman: I rise to address some comments, particularly to the Minister of Health, on the occasion of second reading of Bill 94.

I do not intend to move the debate this afternoon into a recitation of arguments and facts that have been well put by all sides on many occasions. I need not go into those arguments or add to them the kind of hyperbole we have just heard. I feel the hyperbole of 1986 is no justification for the mediocrity of 1996.

I respect the position of the leader of the New Democratic Party. However, I do not agree with it. I accept his motivation and concern. Where we diverge is in the conclusions we draw as regards how best to achieve accessibility and all the other goals of the health care system. In its firm commitment to accessibility, which goes unchallenged, the New Democratic Party need not go back to T. C. Douglas, Woodrow Lloyd or anyone else to reaffirm its commitment to full accessibility. We accept it.

I believe an understanding of the implications of jumping too fast without having understood the implications and complications in a vast and difficult health care system could, perhaps inadvertently, cause a lot more damage than it could repair some problems.

Neither do I feel obliged this afternoon, in response to the remarks of the New Democratic Party leader, to defend the commitment of this party and of my predecessors as Minister of Health, not only to the health care system but also to full accessibility to that system.

4:50 p.m.

While one can hearken back to insurance companies and arguments put by John Robarts and others in 1962, the fact remains that the proof

is on the streets and in the hospitals and communities across Ontario. The proof lies in the reality, as I am sure all members of this House will agree, and I defy them to disagree with the reality, that here in Ontario we have built the finest health care system in the world.

I say that not by way of defending the previous administration or giving all the credit to us for that system. Quite the reverse; I mention it because it is fair to point out that the previous administration had more than a little to do with that success and to re-emphasize the point that health care providers opted in and opted out. The secret behind building the world's finest health care system was various health care professionals all working together. That speaks more eloquently than the attempt of others to suggest our commitment has become eloquent or clear only in the past few months. All of this did not happen by accident.

As members of this House know, during my time in public life I have served the people of Ontario in many capacities: Minister of Health, Minister of Industry and Trade, Minister of Tourism and Recreation, Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Minister of Treasury and Economics, Provincial Secretary for Social Development and government House leader.

As I look back over those responsibilities and try to determine in my own heart and mind which of those gave me a sense of self-satisfaction, a sense of self-worth and a sense of accomplishment, I must say to the minister it was my year and a half as Minister of Health. I care deeply about that system. I wanted it then to evolve and progress, and I want today to see it evolve and progress. I want to see it continue to be a system the rest of the world looks upon as one of the most progressive, well managed and caring in the world. It is for that reason I have watched the activities of the current Minister of Health very closely.

I talk regularly with the health care groups, the health promotion advocates, patients' rights groups, people involved in the institutional sector, professional nursing care associations, home care providers, the doctors and a plethora of other health care providers. I know them. We worked well together. We did not always agree, but we had a good, solid relationship.

In short, I watch the Minister of Health with a great deal of interest and concern. I might say that outside of question period, I do so with less than a partisan concern, but more because of my care for a system I came to be very closely attached to and interested in.

While I will be largely critical in my comments today, I do want to say to the minister that I do not question his dedication and sincerity as the minister responsible for the health care system. I think for the most part he has been sincere, and I know he does not have an easy task.

The Minister of Health is surrounded by vested interest groups, each with its own narrow self-interests to defend. When the minister fails to comply with their demands, he will be accused of being either a slave to the more traditional vested interests or a slave to the Treasurer. I understand the pressures he is under. In fact, he is charged with the responsibility of running a $9-billion system, and he is responsible, directly or indirectly, for more than 200,000 people providing a vital service to the people of this province.

When the minister appears at the cabinet table and approaches his colleagues, not all will understand the complexity or impact of what he is talking about. They have their own problems, priorities and objectives.

The Minister of Health knows what I am talking about. He has been around long enough to understand the real challenges he faces during his time as minister. He has begun to grasp the need for and the awesome challenge of reforming the health care system of Ontario. He knows very well we must incrementally begin to shift the system from its existing institutionally based bias, which the New Democratic Party leader has spoken of, to a more community-based, more responsive and cost-effective orientation, which I might pause to say I am proud to have played a part in, at least by beginning and encouraging the expansion of those services started by my predecessor, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), and other fine Ministers of Health in this party.

The minister knows we must shift the system from its current curative model to one that promotes illness prevention. He also knows that if he is to achieve those critically important goals, he simply must have the co-operation of all health professionals, including the physicians.

I hope the minister has a vision of the future in health care. I hope that vision is similar to the one I have just expressed. I fear that vision of the future of the health care system—one which, apart from politics, we all share—is being disrupted in a major way by the government and its approach to this issue. That vision of the future may have

been rendered unachievable by the current crisis caused by this legislation.

Let me be clear for members of all parties, particularly the New Democrats, who I am sure would not want to be unfair or unkind in this important debate. Let me state it again. No one in this assembly or in this party has ever disputed the goal of accessibility. All of us in this House and in this great party believe our health care system must be universally accessible, regardless of one's ability to pay. That is what we as a party and all of us in society in Ontario and Canada believe in; simply put, it is the goal of universal accessilibilty.

There is a variety of ways to achieve that goal. The act before us today articulates one and only one way to achieve it: an outright ban on extra billing. A ban on extra billing may achieve the goal of accessibility. However, we fear it would be a hollow victory, because it is obvious there will be fewer of the fine doctors who are accessible today residing and working in Ontario. We would certainly have more unhappy doctors fully accessible than we have today. It would be a kind of Pyrrhic victory.

In this party we concede that banning extra billing is one of the options. I concede that to the minister. I believe, though, it is a highly punitive and negative option, one that is rapidly transforming our health care system into a battlefield where some doctors are pitted against their patients, some nurses are pitted against doctors and our physicians have been pitted against government, sometimes the media and certainly current public opinion.

I am one who has stepped on to that battlefield in a small way myself on occasion. During that confrontation, I came to respect the need not to cause permanent scars in the system, the need to handle that circumstance so carefully that after the fee dispute the doctors would continue to have self-respect in this province; and I, as a member of government, would say nothing that would polarize the community or that would make them feel less welcome or more threatened by government.

The Minister of Health does understand the need to handle this situation with a great deal of tact. It is the classic example where the government clearly has the power in this assembly to win the battle but perhaps to lose the war. The Minister of Health understands what I am saying, and he understands the implications and impact of the current methods.

Perhaps he feels the precise option he is stuck with was handed to him as part of the accord and is the price and source of some of the power, some of the conditions for power, that allowed him to get his job. If the minister's hands are currently tied, by the accord or by the office of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I ask him to contemplate the situation and his primary responsibility as the guardian of a fragile coalition that makes up the health care system of Ontario.

5 p.m.

I understand the Minister of Health will be obliged to take the party position on this one, and he will no doubt do so effectively when he gets his turn in a moment. I ask the Minister of Health to reflect on what he has learned over the past seven or eight months, long after today's debate is over, during the next couple of weeks and months. I ask him to reflect on whether this is the option he would would have selected apart from the dictation of the accord and the demands of the Premier's office.

I wonder whether he honestly believes that the act as written will achieve what the government claims and what the cost is of achieving it in that way. I wonder whether the minister might reflect over time on whether there might not be more appropriate, more effective and less punitive mechanisms to achieve the goal of universal accessibility. I think the current minister shares our vision of the future of the health care system. He knows it is possible to improve upon it, shift it from institution-based care, make it more humane and caring, more accessible and provide the means it will need to evolve to meet the changing needs of the 1990s.

I fear the minister's understanding and concern about those issues is not shared throughout the government. I fear the government's primary concern is otherwise. It is unquestionably tied up to a great extent with political concerns, be it to fulfil the accord or to continue to move where the polls are saying it is clearly popular to go.

However, 1996 will arrive. The member's responsibility as Minister of Health is to make sure he leaves to his successors a health care system that will be as strong, vibrant and as happy in 1996 as he found it in 1985. With the experience he now has, I believe the Minister of Health knows he could achieve universal accessibility within the health care system without necessarily resorting to an outright ban on extra billing and, most important, without the current confrontational tactics to which it seems his Premier is so committed and with which he feels so comfortable.

The Premier says, "We have to ban extra billing by this April or we will lose $54 million in

federal transfer payments." Is that true? Of course it is not. When the former federal Liberal Minister of National Health and Welfare introduced the Canada Health Act, she recognized that the provinces and their respective medical associations would require time to resolve these issues. Madam Bégin therefore gave all provinces a three-year transition period to comply without penalty. The Premier is wrong. April 1987 is the deadline. It is not April 1986.

The Premier also says, "We will not withdraw the legislation and sit down and negotiate with the OMA." Why not? Other provinces have demonstrated they can arrive at settlements with their doctors. Why can we not negotiate a settlement in Ontario? The government of Nova Scotia was able to reach an agreement with The Medical Society of Nova Scotia prior to introducing its legislation. That agreement provided for final-offer arbitration to resolve fee disputes and a three per cent increase on fees as the price to end extra billing. By the way, that three per cent settlement was equal to the amount withheld by the federal government in Nova Scotia's case.

I am certainly not saying that is the model we should follow here, but the model we should follow is that of negotiating and trying to settle before introducing legislation. In Nova Scotia, they arrived at an agreement.

There have been negotiations and agreements in several provinces. All those negotiations ended with a ban on extra billing. However, those negotiations, first, did not alienate doctors. Second, in each case there may have been no alternative to banning; in Ontario, the alternatives have not been explored.

The government of Nova Scotia did not threaten its physicians with punitive legislative measures. It did not threaten them with $10,000 fines. It did not create a climate of hostility and confrontation. It simply went out and achieved a settlement.

The government of Saskatchewan has been referred to. It reached an agreement with its medical association prior to introducing legislation. In fact, the Saskatchewan Minister of Health and the president of the provincial medical association issued a joint press release hailing "a new era of co-operation and consultation" two weeks prior to the introduction of legislation in that province.

Why is it that we cannot seem to arrive at that agreement in Ontario? Why is this government so committed to a strategy of confrontation? The government of British Columbia also managed for several years to negotiate annual contracts effectively banning extra billing in return for a satisfactory fee schedule. They formalized their agreements through legislation in 1981. Why does this government seem so incapable of entering into a fair, honest and open negotation with our health care providers? Why are groups of doctors calling meetings all across this province and threatening to defy what they believe to be an unjust law.

Why is that happening in Ontario? Does the government believe our doctors are less honest, fair, reasonable, committed and dedicated than doctors in other provinces? Is that what the government believes? If it does not believe that, why does it not try to negotiate with them as governments in the other provinces did?

The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) likes to say his government is banning extra billing to save $54 million a year in federal transfer payments. Is that true? Let us look at it. The Treasurer knows the current gap between the OHIP schedule and the OMA fee is 30 per cent. Is he going to close that gap of $600 million? Is he going to close 10 per cent of it, $66 million? If we were to follow the Nova Scotia government's model, upon which this government's legislation is based, we would still lose the $54 million totally as the tradeoff for banning extra billing.

Based on past experience in other parts of Canada, we clearly have to find the government increasing doctors' payments by at least that $54 million. Why then is the government going around the province giving speeches about how it is going to reinvest the $54 million in alleged savings on new health care projects? Come on, do not play that game.

The government has also been strangely silent on subsection 12(2) of the Canada Health Act. That section stipulates that where extra billing is not allowed, reasonable compensation will be provided through an agreement with the doctors and dentists, or through conciliation or binding arbitration. Therefore, full compliance with that legislation will obviously cost far more than the $54 million the government talks about. If we are going to spend more–and the minister will–surely there are other priorities. We are going to be paying and paying for this step. It is a big price in human and financial terms. The biggest price will be in the way the medical fraternity responds to the actions and methods of the government.

Very little has been said about dentists. I mentioned it in question period this afternoon. The government does not talk about it. Let us talk about the financial implications of banning extra billing by dentists in hospitals. Currently, OHIP

pays $8.5 million annually for hospital-based dental services. That is about 30 per cent of the Ontario Dental Association rate. The additional cost to close that gap is $13 million. That is $13 million which will have to be spent out of the $54 million coming back. The minister should mark the figure down to $41 million before he begins to address doctors and their fee schedules. Let us stop pretending this banning of extra billing is going to save money. The minister knows it is not a cost-saving program.

Let us look at some other facts. The bill tabled on December 19 provides for the right of physicians either to opt in or opt out of the OHIP plan. Let us look at some of the facts and statistics which I am sure even the minister's colleagues, only three of whom unfortunately are here to hear, might be interested in.

5:10 p.m.

Prior to the introduction of this legislation, opting out in this province had dropped from a high of 18 per cent in 1978, when the Liberal Party of Ontario supported extra billing, down to a low in November 1985 of 11.8 per cent. Further, I wonder whether the minister's colleagues, or perhaps the minister, are aware that of all the doctors in this province only 3.1 per cent are neither opted in themselves nor part of an associated medical group that is opted in. Of all the doctors in this province, only 3.1 per cent do not bill the Ontario health insurance plan.

It is not 11.6 per cent or 11.8 per cent, and it certainly is not 18 per cent. It is not even five per cent, which is the number of bills that are extra billed. Only 3.1 per cent of all the doctors in this province never submit bills to the OHIP plan directly. Their colleague the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) will tell them that. He will tell them how accessible it is.

Under the legislation, a physician can opt out. That physician can bill his patient directly and OHIP will reimburse the patient within six to eight weeks under the current opted-out level. We know that today about five per cent of the claims are pay-patients. I wonder whether the public is aware that as a result of the government's methods and its action against doctors, the rate of five per cent direct billings will skyrocket in a matter of months to 35 or 40 per cent.

Let us look at it in tangible terms. If a single parent were to bring her two children and herself to a bill-direct physician for a simple checkup, the same doctor she has been going to for years, she now would be out of pocket $60 for six to eight weeks, and more likely 16 to 20 weeks because of the volume the computer will face.

What does that do to accessibility in this province? What does that do to improve access to the health care system for the financially disadvantaged? When direct billing was five per cent of total OHIP claims, it was a relatively minor issue. However, as a result of the way in which this government has proceeded, we now will see a 35 to 40 per cent increase in the magnitude of that problem. Will that make it better or worse? Will it improve accessibility or harm it?

I believe the Minister of Health understands these implications. During the adjournment, I ask him to explain it to his leader. The Premier believes he has a great political issue–the forces of good against evil, politics that put people in white hats and black hats, cowboys shooting at each other, gunfights outside the corral and the hospital.

He even claims publicly that he is prepared to go to the polls on the issue. On what issue? Is it to support a government that refuses to sit down and negotiate in a civilized manner on behalf of the people? Is it to support a bill that does not achieve the goals this government has claimed it would?

Mr. Ferraro: That is baloney.

Mr. Grossman: The member should lean over and ask his colleague. He is just one seat away from him. Ask him what negotiation is all about.

When the people of this province see the trauma in their health care system, they will have some tough questions to ask. They will want to know, reasonably, whether the confrontation could have been avoided, and it could have been. This government will not be judged on how sincere it was when it introduced the legislation. It will be judged on how well the health care system is working. This issue has to be treated a little more delicately than as just another political football.

The concept that every Ontarian is entitled to a comprehensive range of health care services without reference to ability to pay is deeply ingrained in our identity in this party and, without exaggeration, is one of the strong unifying bonds we all share in this Legislature regardless of party affiliation. We are all committed to the principles of universal access, a comprehensive range of services, portability, public administration of the insurance plan and access to services without financial barriers.

That is not what the debate is all about. It is a question of how well we can fulfil these

principles. That depends on our complex and interlocking relationship with a great number of health care providers, with a host of the world's leading doctors and health-related professionals, associations and the like.

By definition, a health care system is one that results from an activity of profoundly human dimension, and this quality permeates every aspect of the system. The minister knows that. He knows the importance of partnership and co-operation in the system. He knows confrontation will harm the quality of care for years to come. It will not be just for today.

This Legislature will rise this week. We will have several months off from our daily partisan battles here. I appeal to the minister to use that time wisely and prudently. I urge him to begin a dialogue with the Ontario Medical Association to explore alternative options on the accessibility issue.

Would the OMA consider a limited ban on extra billing? It is not sufficient, I say to the minister, for his leader to say the OMA has not made that proposal to him. The minister is in charge. He speaks to them every day. It is his job to keep peace in the system.

Let us have no ivory tower politics here. It is a simple plea to the minister to pick up the phone and say: "Hey, we read in the paper that maybe some of your people might support this. Shall we talk about it?" Why does the minister not do that? It cannot hurt. They may say no, but why does he not call them? The arrogance of his leader on this issue is unacceptable. We do not expect him to call; we know better than that. We expect the minister to call.

Perhaps the OMA might agree that no hospital-based services be extra billed; that the needy, the seniors and the 25 per cent of the public on OHIP assistance not be extra billed. Would the OMA agree that anaesthesists should not extra bill and should perhaps become salaried at a higher rate of remuneration?

What about increasing our resources in community health clinics, in health service organizations and in those geographic communities and specialties where extra billing may threaten the principle of universal accessibility?

What about the tax system as a potential mechanism to reinforce our desire to have the vast majority of physicians opted in and billing at OHIP rates? Can we not ask the OMA to suggest its own alternative mechanisms for compensating physicians?

I am going to pause for a moment to read an excerpt to the minister. This is from a document put out by the Liberal Party of Ontario a couple of years ago. I will read an excerpt from the health care section, which is a quote from the now Premier: "The deterioration in our health care system must be halted. This can only be achieved through a consultative approach which emphasizes rational planning and adequate funding." A consultative approach. Has power got in the way of consultative approaches? That is all we ask for in this debate.

I urge the minister, not for the politics here but for the sake of the system, to consider the options, to explore them honestly and openly with the OMA and that before he and the Premier say no to the suggestion they simply talk and have a dialogue; think for a moment about what the health care system will be like five or 10 years from today if confrontation is the rule and unhappiness and dissension permeate the system.

We can count the seats in this House. We know the government and its accord partners may very well succeed in bludgeoning the physicians into submission. We know that. We understand the vote that is about to occur. I ask the minister to contemplate at what cost.

I began my remarks by reminding the minister that I do not doubt his commitment to the system or his sincerity. I have never questioned the honest and deep nonpolitical commitment of the New Democratic Party. I question the understanding of both parties of the implications of what they are about to do. I do question a bit the understanding of the system and the commitment to the principle, as exhibited by the leader in a grasp for power politics.

I ask the minister, what is the cost? Will physicians not feel that some of their basic rights have been destroyed because they were forced, rather than negotiated, into the plan? Will they be so fed up that they begin to deliver health care services differently–not this year, I do not accept that, and not in five years, but in the next generation of physicians? Do we need to create a circumstance where people say: "Gee, do you remember what it was like in the 1970s and 1980s? Do you remember the quality of the system we then had? What has happened? Where did it go wrong?"

Will physicians be so antagonistic that our vision of a strengthened community-based health care delivery system becomes unachievable? Is that a fair price to pay?

5:20 p.m.

We in this party do not want to give up that vision, Ontarians do not want to give up that

vision and I do not believe the current Minister of Health wants to give up that vision of a reformed health care system, but that is one of the prices the government is going to pay. It is not only the extraordinary price of spendings tens of millions of dollars on compensating physicians for making them do something they do not want to do, when that money could be used for something else in the system.

It is not only the financial price; it is also a question of morale and good feeling in the system, a question of co-operation. As a former minister, I say the government is going to need that co-operation. Lack of co-operation will mean the quality of health care in this province will be compromised, not in 1986 but in 1996. I do not believe this minister wants to leave that as his mark on the health care system. There has to be a better way.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Grossman moves, seconded by Mr. Timbrell, that Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act, be not now read a second time, but be referred back to the Premier and the Minister of Health with instructions to enter into immediate discussions with the affected health care providers, with a view to repairing the damage which has been done to the fabric of the province's health care system; to closing the chasm which the government has fostered between it and the health care providers; and to providing all Ontarians with full accessibility to quality health care.

Mr. Grossman: Our plea to the minister is to wait, talk, negotiate and see if there is a better way. His obligation to the health care system goes far beyond his obligation with respect to the polls, the directives of his Premier and the requirements of the accord. We understand his dedication. If he cares about the health care system, he will accept our reasoned amendment, stand it down and do what every other province has done, and that is to talk with their doctors. The minister should respect them, work with them and build a better health care system. He should not cling to the facile politics of the moment.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I rise at this particular time to speak at a very historic time in the development of Ontario about the commitment of a government of the people of this province to a system wherein we can guarantee there will be access to medical care without having regard to whether a person has $5, $10, $15 or more in his or her bank account before that person receives adequate medical treatment.

This is not just a passing piece of legislation. This is an important piece of legislation, which should have been worked on some time prior to our government coming into place. It is something I know certain members of the party now claiming to be the official opposition had some thoughts about. There are some people over there who had some very interesting thoughts about this legislation, who may not have felt compelled to stand and speak from the heart, as a number of people in this Legislature have spoken.

I can think of no finer time when there should have been well-thought-out, well-delineated, well-placed versions of what people feel should have been philosophically done in this Legislative Assembly. I apologize to those members I did not have an opportunity to hear, but I did spend some time listening attentively to those people who had taken the time to sit down and develop thoughtful responses to the legislation, not only to the physicians' letters but to the problems that have been brought forward to me as minister.

Whether it was the member for Timiskaming, the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), who talked so eloquently in days gone by about northern health care needs, the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) or other members of this Legislature, they all pointed out that as good as our system is, we have many more miles to go before we can claim to have a system without need of reform.

There are some members of this Legislative Assembly who spoke eloquently about the personal involvement of their families. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) spoke of his grandparents. The member for York South (Mr. Rae) spoke about constituents of his own and of other people.

Some who spoke in this Legislative Assembly refused to speak at all about those situations where we know people have been disadvantaged. They refused to acknowledge that studies throughout this country have verified that the people who have limited resources in this province are the ones who will be deterred from accessing the health care they so rightfully deserve to receive in this country.

It is not a question of whether a physician is able to directly bill his patients. It is, without a doubt, a concern of this minister, of this government's first minister and of the members of the executive council that people should be able to receive medical care, not a financial

examination at the hands of their physicians and surgeons before they get what is required to sustain their lives and what is required to keep them independent and vital parts of our society.

I cannot for a moment sustain any thought that anyone in our country can think that he alone, as a physician or any health care provider, should examine a person first and foremost from the question of whether he has more money in his wallet than could be sustained on his insurance plan payout. To me, that does not ring true.

I cannot suggest at this time that I have an ability to speak as eloquently as other members who have spoken before me. The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) has sustained in her own way a very real and concerted effort to put a point of view about which she feels very strongly. I have a great deal of admiration for the way in which she developed her argument. Although I was not here to listen, I read her comments attentively and I followed her development of the profession as she ran through the medieval times and compared the development of medicine to that of law and of others.

Although I did not hear all of his speech, I heard part and read part of the speech of the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. He had a very well put and well-placed argument, a very strongly held position.

I listened to the eloquent and very well developed arguments of the member for York South, the leader of the third party. The emotion with which he developed the argument which spoke so eloquently to the needs of the people of this province and to the people of all of Canada and to the work that has been done to lay a base for where we are today in this Legislative Assembly speaks truly of a long and worthwhile struggle to come to grips with what we all recognize and, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) will agree with us, we all ought to have, namely, access to medical care without reflection on financial ability.

5:30 p.m.

For those members who feel they must vote against this piece of legislation, I ask them to sustain in their own minds why they feel a pocketbook or bank account should be examined before medical treatment is provided.

I do not pretend to be a speaker who can light up the members of this august body. I do not pretend I can speak with the passion I have heard expressed today by my colleague the member for York South. However, I defy anyone to downplay the degree of feeling, the passion I feel about the need for this piece of legislation.

Along with my colleagues I know, and we are sustained by the anecdotes, as they are called by the opponents of this legislation, of the times when there has been disadvantage placed upon the shoulders of the people of this province. We cannot tolerate that. Some members may feel the occasional case makes no problem for us. I disagree, because for every time one of these items comes to light, there are many more we will never find out about.

There are too many people who are sensitive about having inadequate means to provide for their families, inadequate means even to provide for themselves. How can we, as people who should have compassion for them, stand and vote against the right of people to have access to medical treatment?

We have progressed a long way in this province. As the member for York South would indicate and verify through his reading of history made by the Liberals of many years gone by, we have been moved to deal with this issue at other times. It has not been dealt with. History would indicate people have not moved to come to grips with what the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick tells us now is in the hearts of all of us in this House, the desire to have universal accessibility.

Perhaps there are different meanings, as the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick tells us, to coming to grips with how that universal accessibility can be delivered. Perhaps that member is right in saying he desired to co-operate with the health professionals to develop a new vision. He may be right in that there are things he did, and for which he tried to take credit this afternoon, to develop a new vision of the health care system. Perhaps during the tempestuous days when he was Minister of Health there was some respect gained and some co-operation, but reading back through the annals of history and the text of debate in this Legislative Assembly, one does not often see that co-operation about which he spoke so eloquently today.

Unless we have some misconception of what has transpired over these past several months, let me remind members we have cast about this province for any number of solutions to a very difficult problem. Perhaps one of the biggest problems for us as a government has been to have members of the medical profession acknowledge that extra billing is a problem.

Let me verify that. When people are refused access to health care because they do not have the money, that is a problem. Let me also verify again, as has been said by the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick and the member for York

South, that this is not the only problem we have with our health care system. As good and as well recognized as our system is, none of us can take pride in the fact there are deficiencies which have gone unaddressed for some time.

None of us can take satisfaction when we hear of difficulties in one institution in providing care when it is needed, or when we find groups of health professionals feeling they are on the outside of the system wanting in to participate.

Without doubt, there are any number of things we can do to improve our system. This is a step we must take if we are to come to grips with the very basic questions of how our health care system is to be developed in Ontario. Are we going to prescribe for the people of this province the necessity of carrying their bank book, their bank balance with them every time they go to see a physician or any other health care professional? Or are we going to say to those people they can visit the physician, dentist or optometrist of their choice without fear of having to be embarrassed by some radical examination of their ability to pay for services which they as a citizens of this province have a right to expect?

I have a number of notes with a lot of interesting statistics about what has happened in the past, such as the Canada Health Act which was passed on April 17, 1984. It was passed with the support of all three federal parties, although I presume some people would like to disagree with that. The Liberals, Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats joined in what I think was a unanimous stroke for a sense of the vision of future health care in Canada.

Not only was the passage unanimous in the House of Commons, it was unanimous in the Senate, that chamber of sober second look. In Ontario we have brought in legislation which will put us in a place to join our colleagues in Quebec, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It is about time Ontario caught up.

So the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick will be aware of the discussions we attempted, we have taken every opportunity to discuss ways of coming to an agreement. Although he admonished the Premier and me to make further efforts, his admonishments are not required. We are currently making efforts, and we will continue to work hard at coming to grips with any number of options which may be put forward by the Ontario Medical Association. My colleagues here need not be concerned about the earnestness with which this government will pursue available options.

We have been earnestly seeking that dialogue about which the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick spoke earlier. We have been rebuffed, not only in private but in newspapers, during meetings and in any number of places. The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick would know exactly why no agreement was arrived at prior to the introduction of this bill. We can read the pronouncements of the general secretary or the president of the OMA.

However, at this particular juncture I can say to the members of the Legislative Assembly that, as a result of our recent work and debate on this legislation, I have received several pieces of correspondence from members of the medical profession. I have received telephone calls, as has the Premier, with suggestions as to how the negotiations could perhaps be commenced again. We are in receipt of any number of expressions of support from professionals for beginning these negotiations. We are working with those people who have any genuine suggestions. We will proceed to cast about for any opportunities that make themselves available to us and we will continue to reach out for any opportunity that will enable us to break what the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick calls an impasse.

5:40 p.m.

I can acknowledge this has been a very difficult time for discussing issues such as extra billing. It has been a very difficult time to get a forum in which one can even have the words "extra billing" mentioned by people on both sides of the issue. We have semantic arguments. We have "balanced billing" and we have "extra billing." We have any number of ways of expressing it. We have had meetings with the profession in which euphemistic phrases were used to indicate the issue of extra billing, but I can tell members it has not deterred us from trying to discuss this particular matter in its fullest sense at every opportunity with the people who would provide us with information to assist us in coming to grips with this problem.

I think it is fair to say this particular minister has a vision of the health care system. We are viewing a number of reforms in the system to which the former Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick alluded earlier. We have taken the opportunity to introduce a series of new initiatives with respect to health care in this province. I mentioned some today in question period in reply to the member's question about what we are doing for certain chronic care bed needs.

We have a vision we will pursue with full knowledge that we have co-operation from health care professionals, from the people who really make this system work. We will continue to come up with ideas developed by the health care professionals in this province so we can make our system one of the best in the world.

I do not take any particular pride in being the Minister of Health who follows in the footsteps of a government that was here for 42 years. I take some pride in the fact that despite some of the things that were done, we have a very good system. I do not take any solace from the fact that because of some of the things that were not done years before, we have a golden opportunity to improve upon the system. I take it upon myself, and this government takes it upon its shoulders, to ensure that we build upon what is already there in a very worthwhile way for the benefit of the people of Ontario and not for the benefit of any particular interest group.

As members of this Legislative Assembly and as former members of the opposition party, we know that sometimes government does not move as quickly as we would like. I am finding that as the Minister of Health. I am finding there are certain degrees of patience necessary to develop policies with which we can proceed to finance and fund appropriately and to implement. As we did in dealing with the arguments that have been put before us in opposition to extra billing and the debate about this particular problem, patience is a commodity with which we will tackle all the problems listed by various members of this august body.

I have considered a number of suggestions of the people. There have been any number of suggestions that were made in passing and one of them has been with respect to the fine. Some feel the $10,000 fine in this bill is too high. Sometimes they pick out a little corner, the wording of a phrase or two in the bill, and say, "Why can you not change it?" We are open to making changes. I am open to considering the possibility of moving that fine to a level that would be commensurate with that under the Health Disciplines Act if people want to see that event occur.

I am in tune with any ideas that will make this a better piece of legislation. I am in tune with any number of suggestions that will help us negotiate with the members of the medical profession, such as the item the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick spoke about earlier, the question of compensation. None of us wish to disadvantage the members of the medical profession by the use of this legislation. That is why I made sure we would not close off options and opportunities to discuss the manner of deciding financial compensation.

It is obvious that this government is committed to ending extra billing in this province. We have taken a long time to reach out for the suggestions of the members of the medical profession to assist us in developing legislation. We have taken the added course of establishing forums in nine centres in this province. We have done a number of things that were designed to helped to bring that profession in to speak with us and to form a partnership to deliver a system and a legislative package that would be fair. We will continue to reach out to develop that partnership with respect to meeting the needs of the health care system of which so many people have talked.

I look forward to moving ahead into a third stage in this legislative process where we can have open hearings in a committee of this Legislature so we can examine fully what some physicians have described as a matter of principle and a matter of freedom. I look forward to participating in that open forum so we can get at the heart of what these arguments really are all about.

For the part of the Liberal government of this province and that of our colleagues who support us, the principle is one of being able to receive, without question, medical attention from every source in this province. That is not a hard concept to grasp. For our part we are going to support this legislation and move ahead to develop it more fully so it reflects the manner in which the people of Ontario can be assured that they will have universal accessibility to health care in this province. For the people of Ontario, it is about time.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Elston has moved that Bill 94 be now read a second time. Mr. Grossman has moved a reasoned amendment. I would like to remind all members of standing order 54(a), which says, "If a reasoned amendment...is offered to a motion for second...reading, the first question proposed by the Speaker is whether the bill will now be read a second...time."

The question I am placing to the House is, shall the bill be now read a second time?

5:59 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Elston's motion for second reading of Bill 94, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaître, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Knight, Kwinter, Laughren, Lupusella;

Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, Offer, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Baetz, Barlow, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Hennessy, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Leluk, Marland, McCaffrey, McCague, McFadden, McLean, McNeil, Partington, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Shymko, Stephenson B. M., Sterling, Stevenson K. R., Taylor, Timbrell, Treleaven, Turner.

Ayes 66; nays 40.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

The House recessed at 6:05 p.m.

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Official Report of Debates
Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, February 11, 1986
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 11, 1986

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES (continued)

On vote 801, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Harris: When we concluded at the last sitting, I had been very hopeful that the minister might rise and indicate he would be prepared to respond to the four concerns I had raised. A couple of concerns were raised by the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane). We were at that point in the proceedings when we would have liked to hear what responses the minister had to those concerns.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: My friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) had a few questions for me, and he just said there were a few unanswered questions from the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. I think I answered most of the questions of the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, but one thing I forgot to do last night was to commend him for the good work he did as the father of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

I recall that when I was the mayor of Hearst we were asked to come to Toronto. At that time, we met in Toronto and we were briefed on this new initiative by the government. One thing we were told at that time–and I am sure my honourable friend can say whether I am wrong or right–was that the Ministry of Northern Affairs was supposed to help us to develop, to go more into developing fields and to help us to organize ourselves as a region with an economic backbone.

Then a few months later the ministry arrived on the scene and started opening offices with a few northern affairs officers at that time. To the astonishment–I do not know whether that is the right word, but I will say it that way–of all the mayors, those offices were used at first only to get information or to help people with information.

As I recall, we were told this was supposed to be to help the municipalities to organize themselves as an economic region, and that is what I am doing today. What I will be announcing in the next 12 months or so goes back to the first speech I heard at the Ontario Science Centre. We all met there. Mr. Robarts and Mr. Davis came, and he told us what he wanted in the north.

I believed at the time that it was the right way, but it dwindled for a while. Then in the last two or three years, they gave another twist towards economic matters. From there I am going to try to give the approach that was supposed to be there in 1972, 1973 or 1974, when we were asked to come for this announcement.

I was talking with the other mayors this afternoon. We met here and went over what I intend to do. Some of them were there when it was first announced. I will be on track with what was the original objective of Northern Affairs. I would like to thank the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. What I got from his leader and from other people who spoke that day is what I am going to try to do as Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

There was a question by the member for Nipissing about the advocacy role of the ministry. I repeated this several times in our estimates. It is my role and that of my ministry and I am a very aggressive advocate. On top of that, I have a further chance to advocate northern interests. I am chairman of the cabinet committee on northern development, I serve on the policies and priorities board of cabinet and I am a member of the economic policy committee and of the social policy committee, as well as a member of the full cabinet.

Mr. Timbrell: God help us.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: God help us for sure. The member should not worry about me. He will see me coming pretty soon. I will be establishing regional or northern development councils to help the north because I feel it does not matter whether there are 10 ministers for the north, if one does not listen to the grass roots, one is not doing one's job. We are going to prepare ourselves and, after the next election, we will have about four, five or six ministers from the north.

This structure will be established to be sure they are singing the same songs. A few years ago there was always a little battle between a minister

from the northwest and one from the northeast. The newspapers led us to believe they were fighting each other. At the same time, the northeast suffered a bit because the one was always mad at the other, who kept everything for the northwest. In the past year or so, he tried to give a little more to the northeast. I guess he was repentant. Finally, he gave a bit more. I am not alone in saying this. I talked to the mayors and reeves of the northeast and they all told me the same thing. Most of those mayors and reeves were Conservatives too.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: They are all Liberals now.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: They may be all Liberals now, but I do not know. They are all wearing red ties. Except for the mayor of one little town who was for me, all the 25 mayors were for the Conservatives and I still won, so I do not need them.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, we do not have–

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: All the mayors are Conservatives; that is their business. I will still keep working for the north.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Harris: We had approximately 17 or 18 minutes left. We have used 10 of those minutes. I asked for specific answers to the four specific questions I raised. So far we have not got to those answers. I would like to remind the Chairman of the committee, the government House leader and the minister that if I do not get the answers to the questions and an opportunity to respond to the minister, concurrence will take considerably longer than this House had planned on.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I learned what I am doing today from the member for Nipissing, because when he was over here in June, I asked him two questions. When he answered it was the same thing; he went on and on.

Northern travel allowance for chiropractor referral is a good question. I will raise it with the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and ask my colleague to see what we can do on the question raised by the member for Nipissing.

8:10 p.m.

On the question about education for natives in the north, touched on by the member for Nipissing, he said that probably we would be better to have the native people educated all over the north. That is not what I am hearing from the natives.

As members know, I just hired Frank Beardy, who was the grand chief of the Nishnawbe-Aski, and he never said he wanted their children to be all over the north. Not only the new chief but the elders too, when I met them at Muskrat Dam Lake and Big Trout Lake this summer, when they all met in Kashechewan, told me they had never asked the government to have their children taken away at grade 8 or grade 9 to be placed in homes all over the north. What they want is control over their education, and this is the area we are working on with the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) and Mr. Crombie from Ottawa, whom I met last week.

We are going to try to follow the Fahlgren report and to look at the northern school, or schools, because I myself feel there should be more than one if we are going to move on this. The native people in the northwest and the northeast, the Nishnawbe-Aski, said it would probably be ideal to have two boarding schools.

One site we are looking at could be Sioux Lookout, where, as the member knows, the air force reserve base is closing down in a year. Right now we are going to have a study group to study that. This air force reserve base probably could be used as a base for one northern school and for a training school for the natives, where they could learn how to work in the bush or in the mines. As the member knows, I told him last week in my estimates that we are going to try to train the natives in mining with the help of the mining companies. The natives need a place to study, a co-op situation where they can go and study and work in the mines.

Eventually, starting next week, we are going to try to put in the act something about mining north of the 50th parallel to be sure that the natives are protected, for their jobs at least, and maybe some other economic benefits.

So as far as education is concerned, we are on track, we are following what the natives in the north want and we are going to try to work quickly to do something about it.

Mr. Harris: I was interrupted by the government whip there for a minute. Did I hear a response to the question about the minister's position on behalf of the people of northern Ontario concerning the use of chemical sprays? The minister took 11 minutes of garbage, diatribe and a bunch of crap, the like of which I have not heard in this House in the not quite five years I have been here when he talked about the former minister, the former government and what not.

I asked a pretty serious question. I quoted from three different sections of the ministry estimates, which indicated that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines were to speak

on behalf of the people of northern Ontario as they were affected by other ministries.

I asked those questions yesterday. One dealt with housing; 24 hours have intervened, and I am now told he will talk to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling). One dealt with chiropractors; I am told he will now talk to the Minister of Health. He said he needed 24 hours to talk to the Minister of Health. He has had eight months to intervene on behalf of the people of northern Ontario.

If indeed he is serious about that as one of his roles, and he saw fit to use up most of his time talking about it in a diatribe, why does he not answer the questions? One of the questions I asked and that the people of northern Ontario are entitled to know is what he is saying as the minister responsible for northern Ontario on the use of chemical sprays in the north.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Premièrement, à cette question que le député de Nipissing m'a posée, je n'ai jamais fait aucun commentaire dans les journaux ou en public que je ne fais pas aujourd'hui. Nous allons débattre ça en Cabinet selon ma conscience et selon les rapports que j'ai du Nord.

Mr. Harris: This is the third time we have heard from the minister that it is none of the business of–

M. Pope: Pas du tout, eh?

Mr. Harris: The minister does not have to answer anything any more.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Harris: This is the third time we have heard from the minister that it is none of the business of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and none of the business of the members of this Legislature on a very serious position affecting northern Ontario. I find that totally unacceptable. I still have not had the answers to my four questions. I suspect the Chairman will quickly tell me that time has run out. I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to continue the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and carry on until we get the answers.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Nipissing has asked whether this committee should continue debating the issue.

Mr. McClellan: With respect, we have had three days of debates on these estimates. The illustrious gentleman who has just finished was here for 14 minutes of them.

The Deputy Chairman: There is no unanimous consent. The time has expired. Pursuant to subsection 46(d)–

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: The House leader of the third party indicated I have been here for 14 minutes. We had 17 minutes tonight and about two and a half hours the previous night. Regrettably, I was away from some, but I would ask the House leader to retract his bald-faced lie.

Mr. McClellan: I will apologize, but he will retract that first.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: What a childish exhibition.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Would the member for Nipissing retract that word please?

Mr. Harris: He retracted what I said was a lie, and he knew better. Now that he has retracted, I do not have to retract.

The Deputy Chairman: I will ask the member for Nipissing to retract the word "lie."

Mr. Harris: In view of the fact he has retracted the lie, I will retract my statement.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I do not intend to make a big deal out of this. I made a mistake and I apologized to the member. I just leave it at that. The member can do what he wants.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is time for me to get up on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to point out to all honourable members that the exchange over the last few minutes is the best argument I have heard in a good long time on the subject of why we should not be bothered with evening sessions any longer.

Mr. Pope: That is nice and condescending.

Mr. Harris: In spite of the condescending remarks of the honourable House leader of the government, the House leader of the third party has said he made a mistake. I accept that and withdraw my remark.

The Deputy Chairman: Pursuant to subsection 46(d), I will put all questions necessary to carry every vote and item of each estimate reserved to the committee and not yet passed by it. Such questions are not debatable.

Votes 801 and 802 agreed to.

Vote 802 supplementary agreed to.

Votes 803 and 804 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: As an individual member of this House, I want to register my concern over the process we just went through. I realize it was in order, but I

wish that in future we would deal with the votes on a vote-by-vote basis rather than this so-called wide-ranging debate we have had in these estimates. I do not think it was that productive.

Mr. Harris: On the same point, I concur with the member for Algoma. Regrettably, we did not receive very many answers as we asked questions on administration. Had we received those, we would have been glad to move on to the other votes.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Fulton moved second reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: In December 1983, an amendment to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act established the mechanism to allow holders of truck operating licences to apply for simplified, more-understandable licences. The process was much needed, as many licences had become difficult to interpret and enforce. Clarification and simplification of licences will benefit the courts, carriers, shippers and enforcement personnel alike.

My ministry staff and truck operators have been reviewing and rewriting licences in the clarified format. However, these have no effect until further legislative enactment. This bill before the House will allow the issuance of licences, thereby completing the process. More than 7,000 licences have been drafted under the new terms. Many carriers are anxious to commence operating under the rewritten authority.

The bill is compatible with, but by no means a commitment to, further reform of trucking regulations. The passage of this bill is necessary to put those rewritten licences into effect, thereby allowing all affected parties to take advantage of the economies and efficiencies that are expected to result.

Mr. Gregory: I welcome the opportunity to address the House on this bill. Our party will be supporting this legislation on second reading, only because the bill was originally recommended and introduced by the former Minister of Transportation and Communications, the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague).

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: His name is still on it. For that reason and for many others, our party will be supporting it.

The significant feature of the bill is to allow the issuance of rewritten truck operating licences. The Public Commercial Vehicles Act was amended in December 1983 to allow the rewriting of truck operating licences. This further amendment, Bill 16, is required to put the rewritten licences into effect. It is quite apparent that over the years, trucking licences have become more and more complex, adding to the difficulties of operating and enforcing them.

The Public Commercial Vehicles Act amendments in 1983 established a new specification framework for licences, procedures for licence holders to apply for a rewrite and authority for the Ontario Highway Transport Board to issue new operating certificates. Current figures show that approximately 3,000 of the 7,500 rewrite applications are processed and await issuance. These 3,000 carriers are anxious to receive their new licences.

The key to these reforms is to establish a simplified, clarified licence, which will be seen to benefit carriers, shippers, the courts and enforcement personnel alike. Further, it should be noted that rewriting the licences represents one of the major reform initiatives proposed by the Public Commercial Vehicles Act review committee in its 1983 report, Responsible Trucking. This activity is also compatible with initiatives in the other provinces.

It is my hope and that of our party that the measures contained in Bill 16 will allow a cleanup of existing trucking licence problems from both an operational standpoint and an enforcement standpoint. We also hope the measures will increase the likelihood that carriers will be dissuaded from operating with invalid or incorrect licences.

Our party supports the efforts of the minister through Bill 16 to allow for simplified operating licences, which will benefit carriers, shippers, the courts and enforcement personnel alike. I can confirm that our party is in favour of this legislation. We feel it should be decided upon as quickly as possible. Along with that, I hope the minister is finally going to answer my questions regarding public commercial vehicle licences.

Mr. Philip: We are in favour of this bill. The bill starts back further than the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) indicated. It starts in the great mess that was described by the select committee on the highway transportation of goods, of which he chaired a number of hearings.

In that committee's report, those of us who in 1975 were on the committee and studied the

problem of regulatory systems in Ontario concluded that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, in conjunction with the Ontario Highway Transport Board and the industry, should review and report to the government on ways and means to simplify the description of authorities, terms, conditions, restrictions, licences and so forth.

If one reads this 12-pound volume, one can see we elaborated in some depth on some of the complications of enforcing the existing systems because of the difficulty in interpreting the authorities that individual trucking companies might have on occasion.

We in the New Democratic Party are committed to the very principles that were outlined as a result of that very exhaustive investigation. We are committed to a regulated trucking industry and the kind of system that has existed in Ontario and has been reformed under the previous government to some extent. We are against the kind of nonsensical anarchy that is being created by the deregulation process in the United States.

To us, it seems fairly clear that the amendments being made today will make it easier to enforce a regulated system. Therefore, we would be foolish not to support that kind of amendment since it is directly in keeping with the principles that the member for Mississauga East, and indeed all members on that committee, chose to support in our report of 1977.

With that, I simply say I would like to hear from the minister as to the latest consultations he may have had with the Ontario Trucking Association and the relevant unions involved in this concerning the bill, but we will support it.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: First, I would like to extend my welcome to the support from both members of the opposition parties and suggest that we would support this no matter where the bill originated or where it came from, or indeed no matter whose name is on the bill. I have no difficulty reading the name of the member for Dufferin-Simcoe on Bill 16.

It is a commonsense, logical move to assist all those people in the trucking industry and those who are charged with the responsibility of enforcing the industry. One need only look at the former licence and at the proposed licence to see how dramatically the new licences have been simplified. I dare say one would need to be a Harvard lawyer in most cases to read through and understand the existing licence form.

With respect to the Ontario Trucking Association, with whom I met as recently as last week, I have every indication that it fully endorses and supports Bill 16 and the regulations. We have ongoing discussions with them and with other people involved in the question of regulatory reform, but as I mentioned in my statement, this by no means necessarily commits us to any further action in that regard.

I think Bill 16 stands very clearly on its own and very clearly in the interests of the truckers, carriers, shippers and the enforcement agencies charged with overseeing the industry. I move, and I hope all members of this House will join us in support of, second reading of Bill 16.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

8:30 p.m.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved second reading of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thought I would speak briefly about the provisions as set out in the bill introduced just yesterday.

Mr. McClellan: Moments ago.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Moments ago, practically. The fund that has grown under the aegis of the Teachers' Superannuation Act is now estimated at $8.5 billion. That is a figure that must warm the cockles of the hearts of all the teachers who are present here and, to some extent, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), because he borrows the principal amount of this fund and puts it to good use in the work of the province.

There are 136,000 contributors at present and about 25,000 pensioners. During 1984, the most recent year for which the numbers are fully available, the teachers contributed about $240 million to this fund. The government, on behalf of the teachers' employers, contributed $275 million. As I have indicated, the funds are borrowed back from the teachers' superannuation fund by the Treasury. This year, the average interest paid on those funds was 12.07 per cent. The interest earned by the fund from the Treasury was $836 million.

I thought some of those figures might be of some interest to anyone who is reading the account of this debate. That is the general structure of the fund, and in its own way it is one of the largest economic forces in Ontario.

Over the years, there have been discussions that the teachers might very well have done better by investing the funds themselves, in which case these funds would not have been available to the

Treasury for borrowing purposes. The balancing part of that argument is that, since the fund's inception, or at least since 1920, I am told, the government of Ontario has guaranteed the benefits payable.

In these times of a buoyant economy and relatively high teachers' salaries and contributions, the payment of the benefits is not in question. However, there have been times when the economy had substantial and continued downturns and the government had to put very large amounts of money into the fund to make up for actuarial deficits that occurred in those circumstances. When most teachers consider the alternatives, they have so far opted for a continuation of the public guarantee. Frankly, I think they are wise to do so.

The Teachers' Superannuation Commission, established under the act, has representation from the teachers' organizations and from the public as nominated by the government of the day. It has the responsibility to administer the act and to advise the custodian of the fund, who happens to be the Treasurer of Ontario these days.

Until a couple of years ago, the custodian was the Minister of Education. It may seem reasonable for it to revert to him, but we have not had serious discussions about that. However, if he thought it would be convenient, the government might very well put the fund back under his jurisdiction.

I think the previous government thought that with the Treasurer availing himself of this huge amount of capital and borrowing it for government financing, he ought to have the carriage and responsibility of the fund.

In this connection, the Treasurer is responsible for the act–he is the custodian of the fund–and particularly for the application of the provincial guarantee, which means the benefits are payable whatever the state of the economy. The Treasurer is also the principal creditor, borrowing not all, but almost all, the funds on an automatic basis.

The bill itself has one very important amendment–it is the main purpose of the enactment–which is to provide a window of early retirement, a period of three years during which teachers otherwise qualified at age 55, but falling perhaps short by a certain period from the normal age of retirement, can retire without undue financial hardships.

It is estimated that about 5,500 of these teachers–and there are about 11,000 of them in the age category–will probably opt for early retirement. It is expected that this would cost the fund about $320 million, without taking into consideration the inflationary costs. The pensions are indexed at least up to a maximum of eight per cent of inflation on a yearly basis.

I have already indicated that the cost would be paid for from any surpluses that are found to be in the fund on the actuarial evaluation, which should be reported in March 1986. It is not clear that there will be enough money to pay for all this, but if an actuarial deficit accrues because of this additional benefit, it will be met as usual by the government of Ontario or the Treasury and there will be regular payments over a period of 15 years to make up any accruing actuarial deficit.

I comment in passing that besides the teachers' superannuation fund, there is another pension fund called the Superannuation Adjustment Benefits Act, which provides for the indexing of the payments to teachers upon retirement. The teachers contribute about one per cent of their income to this, but recent evaluations indicate there is a substantial actuarial deficit in this fund.

I am advised that the difficulty in projecting the costs of indexed pensions over a period of years, particularly marked with high inflation and rapid increases in salaries and therefore pensions payable, has given rise to these difficulties. I hope to be able to report in more specific terms to the House in this connection some time in the next two or three months.

All members realize there are a number of benefits to this early retirement provision, and not only for the teachers who avail themselves of the early retirement. The facts of educational development in recent years, particularly with changes in curriculum and declining enrolment, have resulted in the average age of teachers moving towards the high end. The word that is sometimes used is that there is a "bulge" in the distribution of the ages of teachers now moving towards the high end. I hesitate to use that word, being sort of in that age group myself, as there may be some pejorative implications to which I would be sensitive.

It is the judgement of the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) that it would benefit the facilities and the availability of excellence in teaching by having a panel of well-experienced teachers and by offering an improved opportunity for recent graduates to get into the profession. We think this is important.

I want also to refer to a couple of amendments to which the teachers' federation has indicated its displeasure. I refer specifically to section 14, which I consider to be important. It gives the

Treasurer the responsibility to file the actuarial evaluation. Under the Pension Benefits Act, the evaluation must take place on a three-year cycle or at any other time the custodian of the fund asks for an evaluation.

While I am not personally familiar with the process, I am told the actuaries on a section-by-section basis get advice on the actuarial impact of certain changes from teachers' representatives and from representatives of the Pension Commission of Ontario.

8:40 p.m.

I can assure anyone who is concerned about this that neither the Treasurer nor the officials of the Treasury want to interfere, nor do they intend to interfere with the independence of the actuaries receiving the advice and arriving at the evaluation that is required under the Pension Benefits Act.

However, the amendment does give the Treasurer responsibility to file the actuarial evaluation with the Pension Commission of Ontario. The teachers have felt the Treasurer, for the benefit of the taxpayers, might seize a moment when the evaluation was low to reduce their payments for a specific period. I do not make much of an apology for saying it is possible that might occur, but it is not the intention of the Treasury to interfere with the fair and continuing proper evaluation of the fund on an actuarial basis.

We feel the Treasury, having the responsibility of the fund in every other way, does not have a conflict of interest in this regard, but has the responsibility, fiscally and otherwise, to see that the evaluation is put before the pension commission in an appropriate way.

One other objection has been put to me by the Ontario Teachers' Federation, and that is the one embodied in sections 2 and 8 that puts an eight per cent indexing cap on payments made to disabled teachers. The members who are so interested in this subject will know there is already an eight per cent indexing cap, which I consider to be a fiscally responsible approach. If inflation were to surpass the eight per cent level on a yearly basis, the increase in pensions would not go past eight per cent. If, God forbid, inflation went back to that rate again, anything unaccounted for beyond the eight per cent could be carried over into future years.

This parallels the indexing provision; that is, the Superannuation Adjustment Benefits Act to which I have referred. It also parallels the provision in the Public Service Superannuation Act. I consider it to be fiscally responsible and eminently fair.

The other provisions of the act are fairly neutral as far as cost is concerned, but they correct a number of administrative practices and a number of anomalies that to some extent have worked unfairness on some individual teachers. While it is not a direct provision of this act, it gives us an amendment that by regulation will correct a problem that has been brought to my attention by some members of this House who have been teachers, who have returned to teaching and then come back to serve in this House, and who have not been able to make up the appropriate number of teaching days or the appropriate contributions because of lack of appropriate notice.

I must be fair with the members and say that I do not understand the intricacies in detail, but the matter has been brought to my attention by some members. It is the intention of the amendment to correct the anomalies members have found inconvenient, and to some extent unfair, in the provision of their own pension benefits.

I will be glad to listen to comments, but I ask the members for their support of the principle of the bill and for its early enactment.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Nixon has moved second reading of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried. Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Mr. McClellan: It is customary to have other people speak in the debate.

Mr. Foulds: That was not the windup; that was the opening statement.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, when you put the motion, I was under the impression other members did not want to participate. I have absolutely no objection to reverting to the status quo ante because I would be delighted to hear from them.

The Deputy Speaker: The chair apologizes if that was cutting off debate. Do we have unanimous consent to revert to debate?

Agreed to.

Mr. Davis: I rise in support of this motion, along with my party. I commend the government, and the Treasurer in particular, for taking the advice of the social development committee that spent the summer travelling the province and listening to the concerns of teachers about superannuation, and trying to come to a better understanding of the difficulty that the teaching profession was going to face with an ageing

population and the inability of younger teachers to move into the system. It was therefore without reservation that we agreed to a party debate at the committee meeting, in which we had representations from the superannuation commission and from the teachers' superannuation committee. Out of that came some recommendations that we are glad the government acted upon.

I should point out that it was a recommendation to the government from the standing committee on social development that it should have been a five-year period in which the penalty clauses were lifted, not a three-year period. We certainly felt this would alleviate some of the concerns that the teaching profession is going to face within the next decade. Although we are all happy with the passage, somehow five years became three. The teachers were asking for a 10-year moratorium and then for the whole process to kick back into debate.

One of the concerns we had was that, unfortunately, the government saw fit to deal with only one aspect of bringing in legislation. They did not look at some other models, but I would like to go on record as saying that we support at least this initiative. We think it is going to help address the concern of a number of teachers, those who face termination or redundancy, who go into surplus pools and are cycled around yearly, like a washing machine doing the laundry. They are kicked out at the end of the term and can then apply again because of a variety of things that are happening in the educational cycle–for example, the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions deliberations and directions.

I must state very clearly that it is not necessarily the fault of OSIS. It is the fault of directions being given to young people in which they are being told it is imperative for them to take their academic credits before their technical credits, so the youngsters are backing away from technical programs. Those technical teachers are finding themselves in this quandary of being rotated around and not having a sense of stability to their future. We are glad that those individuals and other individuals like them will now have the opportunity to take advantage of this situation to retire.

The Treasurer just very quickly glossed over section 14 of the bill, the valuation issue. I have read the bill and I understand that the past practice has been, from the directives of Management Board, that an evaluation was done each year, and it was certain that at the end of the three years, that evaluation had to be made public to the commission. One was done; I assume it will continue.

As one reads through the various concerns of the Ontario Teachers' Federation and of other people with that section, although one would assume that no Treasurer would ever do that which is open to him, the Treasurer is indeed taking upon himself some directions that heretofore have not been within his prerogatives. There really is no mechanism for revisions to be made if the minister filed the valuation with the pension commissioner of Ontario before transmitting it to the Teachers' Superannuation Commission. At some point the Treasurer has to address that.

For the first time the Treasurer has been given control over the determination of the surplus or deficit in the fund through the mechanism of being able to decide unilaterally the actuarial assumptions to be used. We wish to draw this to the Treasurer's attention. I am sure that as time goes on, he will make the necessary amendments to ensure that those concerns are not there.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Are the members over there still bashing the teachers?

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Davis: No, I am not bashing the teachers. What I would like to say in conclusion, because we are in support of this, is that even with one or two weaknesses in Bill 103, it is important and imperative that we as a House and as a party concur with it to provide those opportunities to those teachers for early retirement. Out of that, it is hoped that more than the projected 5,500 will take the initiative for early retirement, that it will be closer to the number who can actually retire, and open the opportunity for younger teachers to move into our system.

Mr. Allen: It is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise to address the motion respecting Bill 103.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) and the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) will please not disturb the speaker, or interrupt him.

Mr. Allen: It is with considerable pleasure that I rise to address this bill and the motion of the Treasurer to propose a number of amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act. In particular, I was a little concerned when he moved us on so expeditiously. He almost eliminated my opportunity to claim immodestly some paternity for this particular measure.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Nothing like a hype to that side of the House.

Mr. Allen: One does not always want to claim paternity, but in this case, I feel a considerable pride.

It almost seems years ago when at the first meeting of the standing committee on social development initiating its hearings into Bill 30, and the issues surrounding that question, that I placed a motion before the committee to the effect that the committee, in the course of its hearings, might want to examine some of the broader issues in education that were relevant to the extension of separate school funding and the conditions that would develop with the extension and completion of funding to that system and make a report to the minister with respect to the advice it would tender to him as a result of what that committee learned in the process of the many briefs that came before it.

I suggested at that time there were three particular items I was concerned about. One was the general provincial share of the funding dollar in the province. The second was early retirement issues, given the nature of the age profile and a number of peculiar factors over the past generation of the personnel who had moved into the teaching community. The third was the issue of religious education in public schools.

In the course of the hearings, it became abundantly clear that those issues and two or three others, were very important issues that could not be addressed through Bill 30, but which would have significant relevance to the way in which Bill 30 might be applied and have repercussions for public education in Ontario in general.

When the committee came back to that issue at the end of its hearings on December 16, and had added a couple of other issues to that from other members' initiatives, the first item that we took up at that time as the most significant and challenging proposal that we felt needed to be laid at the doorstep of the minister and of the Treasurer in this case, was that of early retirement.

It was on my motion that a proposal was considered by the committee which would have allowed a 10-year window at the point of the initial motion for those 55 years of age and over who had at least 10 years experience behind them in the system.

As it has turned out with the amendments in the committee and the subsequent reflection of the ministry itself, that window has now been reduced to somewhat over three years, close to three and a half. While I am unhappy in some respects with that, I am not prepared to fundamentally quarrel with it, in a measure of this kind, which is the first undertaking of its nature in the field of early retirement in any of the retirement schemes that are operated through the public service in Ontario.

Over the period during which the transition in the public and separate systems under Bill 30 will be most intense, it allows a great many teachers to take the option of early retirement.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: This will put a smile on the face even of Malcolm Buchanan.

Mr. Allen: I hope it will. We always like to see a smile on Malcolm's face. It becomes him.

There are a number of factors that converge to make this bill particularly appropriate as a targeted proposal for early retirement. There are a number of other sectors in the employment world where one could devise similarly wise tactical programs of early retirement to good effect. In this case, one has had the experience of a substantial period of declining enrolment in the public system as a result of the demographics of the baby boom, with which we are all familiar.

This has created a situation in which one has had on the one hand the ageing of the teaching faculty in the schools, and on the other hand an almost impenetrable barrier to employment of young graduating teachers from the teachers' colleges. Many of those ageing teachers in the system also found themselves to be short of the criteria for retirement required by the system.

The ones worst served were those who had come into the system at between 25 and 35 years of age. Among them were those who had come out of business or industrial experience as mature adults. As well, there were many women who came in and out of the system, some of them coming in late after having reared their families and others having moved in and out of the system. There was a major block in the actuarial tables, which we examined in the committee. They were not being well served by the requirements of the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

At the same time, Bill 30 looked as though it might have an impact on the public school secondary teaching community that would be substantially adverse to the requirements of a healthy and well-profiled teaching community. Given the likelihood of necessity of movement from the public to the separate system, it appeared that those of lesser seniority might well be the ones affected. That would exaggerate the age profile.

As well, it looked as though the numbers in the public system would be significantly, though not

massively reduced. That would make the profession in the public school system still less accessible to the graduates of the teachers' colleges. It appeared to us that a cluster of factors made it necessary to devise a scheme that would enable the older teachers in the profession who so desired to take advantage of an early retirement opportunity, without having to pay the penalties that otherwise would be required and that were monetarily very severe.

The measure re-establishes to a significant degree healthy conditions of employment and a healthier and happier profile of teachers for the public school system in particular, not that the early retirement scheme is confined only to them or only to secondary public school teachers; it is there as an option for teachers across the spectrum of the teaching profession in both the separate and public systems.

9 p.m.

It comes as a harbinger of some joy to many teachers who have in the middle and later years of their careers as creative persons developed other sidelines of activity and interest, some in small business, some simply in creative arts and crafts and activities of one kind or another and others in active participation in voluntary organizations and societies, all of which they have become increasingly interested in pursuing.

This gives them an opportunity to retire from the profession and move full-time into some other interesting pursuit they wish to follow without the severe handicap of financial repercussion from their pension.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I see the Treasurer and the Minister of Education adopting a proposal that is so well strategically targeted in an employment sense. I encourage them and the rest of the cabinet ministers who have responsibilities in the economic sector in one way or another to look very closely at this proposal as a device that may apply in other sectors as well.

There are other amendments to the act that have been brought under the wing or the shadow of this proposal. For the most part, I concur with them. In particular, I like the amendment to section 8 of the bill which allows partly disabled teachers to work in education in a nonteaching capacity without automatically losing their disability allowance. That clearly clarifies and removes a discrimination in the act for a certain group of teachers.

I like the amendment to section 6 as well, which reduces from two years to one year the length of time retired teachers must be re-employed in education before becoming entitled to a higher superannuation allowance based on the contributions made to the fund during their re-employment. This is the item the Treasurer referred to in which there was a problem of required teaching days. It was a certain disadvantage to some members of the profession who had gone on to other occupations but who maintained themselves and their positions in the teachers' superannuation arrangement.

Many of the other amendments are housekeeping items on which I do not want to make any comment. I will just underline the points my friend the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) made on the valuation question. I am not prepared to attribute motives to the Treasurer in this redesign of the way in which the actuary report goes to him and then finds its destiny in the hands of the Teachers' Superannuation Commission. There is a whiff of a conflict of interest.

Since he determines the valuation of the fund every three years and it is on that valuation that the government's contribution to the fund is determined, there is a possibility it could be used to some adverse consequence for the teachers concerned. Over the course of the review of the act the next time around, if the Treasurer talks this one through with our teaching colleagues, I am sure there will be a satisfactory resolution of that question as far as all are concerned.

In conclusion, it is with great delight that I view the possibility that some 5,500 of 11,000 eligible teachers may take advantage of this to their benefit. I contemplate with even more pleasure the possibility that those large percentages of graduating classes in teachers' colleges in recent years will now find their window of opportunity to gain access to a profession to which they wished to commit their lives, but who met a very formidable barrier in the peculiar circumstances in which the public education institutions in Ontario have found themselves in recent years.

That will be a great delight to them, a new challenge to many young people and a great asset to our education system as they move into it and exercise their creative abilities on behalf of the younger community which will be moving through that system in the next few years.

I repeat, our party is delighted to be supporting this legislation. I compliment the Treasurer and the Minister of Education for acting so expeditiously with respect to this item.

Mr. Gordon: To the Treasurer and the New Democratic critic who just finished speaking, I must say I am very disappointed in the reaction of the third party to this initiative. I hoped there

would be a more compassionate and understanding approach taken by the government. However, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on this important bill and specifically to the early retirement incentive program for Ontario's primary and secondary school teachers.

This bill responds with some sensitivity to the very human predicament faced by many of our teachers in Ontario today. It acknowledges the need to readjust policy in response to the complex set of issues facing us. We have a declining enrolment in the public schools, the systematic effects of the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions document and the extension of separate school funding, all of which impinge upon the critical issues of mobility, entry by young teachers, affirmative action, growth potential and advancement opportunities.

It is well acknowledged that changes in the teachers' superannuation system could help alleviate these problems. That is why I am mystified about the Minister of Education, who is opposite me at this time listening intently, but at the same time ready to whisper words of encouragement or perhaps, I hope, change into the ears of the Treasurer. They might explain why they chose to hold out almost a little hope, a carrot to the teachers of Ontario, and then to draw it back.

The intent of the early retirement incentive program is commendable, but it goes only half the way and accomplishes only half the task. Both the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation have consistently articulated their position that the Teachers' Superannuation Act should be amended to provide for no reduction for a period of 10 years for a teacher retiring with 10 years of credits at or after 55 years of age. Yet the Treasurer has introduced only a three-year program. We must ask ourselves whether three years will enable a sufficient number of teachers to participate to any great advantage in this program.

I have some figures. The OSSTF estimates approximately 12,329 members could avail themselves of the program if it were extended over a 10-year period. At three years, that figure is only 5,195. Further, according to the OTF, the number of teachers who could benefit from the early retirement incentive program would double if it were extended to five years and possibly quadruple in a 10-year period.

The figures they have prove unquestionably that the biggest cohort of teachers is between 46 and 50 and 50 to 54. This three-year limit particularly impacts negatively on two groups. I would like the Minister of Education to pay close attention to this because he should have advised the Treasurer on these facts.

9:10 p.m.

First, the average age of a teacher is 43 years. For a technical teacher, that figure is 50. The vast majority of technical teachers were lured out of business and industry careers and started teaching at a later age.

With the systematic changes brought about by the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Secondary Divisions guidelines, we are left with a surplus pool of technical teachers who do not have long years of service behind them. It is especially important that this group be able to participate in such a program and thus allow them an exodus with dignity.

Most technical teachers cannot hope to reach a maximum pension because of their age and years of service. At least they would want the opportunity to have a significant service pension. A 10-year window would make that pension significant; a three-year window does not.

Second, 52 per cent of teachers under 30 years of age are women. I am sure this is a subject that concerns the Minister of Education and the Treasurer. I see the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) is here tonight. With his new pay equity bill, he will want to pay close attention to this and perhaps have a chat with the Treasurer about it.

As I said, 52 per cent of teachers under 30 are women and, at the other end, less than 10 to 15 per cent of the oldest teachers are women. The three-year limit will not allow many women to benefit from this amendment to the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

In Sudbury we have seen 116 teachers dropped from the Sudbury Board of Education over a three-year period. The 1983 annual report estimates that between 1983 and 1988 we are looking at a declining enrolment of 5,800 students.

The problems of teacher mobility, young teachers wanting to enter the market and declining enrolment will not go away in three years. Three years is not long enough to permit a sufficiently significant number of teachers to participate in this program, to retire without undue financial burden, and thus to help resolve some of the major difficulties this amendment is meant to address.

As the bill now stands, these funds come out of the teachers' superannuation fund. Even if the limit were a 10-year period, according to the

Ontario Teachers' Federation calculations, there would be a surplus in the fund. If this money belongs to the teachers themselves, why do they not have the right to determine the period in which this program applies to them? Is it not their money? Why is the government being so hard-hearted and niggardly?

In summary, while I commend the intent of this bill and the early retirement incentive program, I believe the time period should be extended at least to five years to really fulfil the goal of this bill and respond in effective and innovative ways to special employment problems faced by Ontario teachers.

Mr. McClellan: I intend to talk for only a very few moments on this bill. Our critic has indicated his support. I want to point out some of the ironies around this bill to the Treasurer. I do not omit to mention the beam in my own eye as I noticed that in my caucus, the last time I counted, four of the six members present were teachers. An equal proportion, more or less, of my colleagues in the Conservative caucus were also teachers.

I look at the front bench of the government and see the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) and the Treasurer. I know my friend the Minister of Education, had he ever had a job, would have been a teacher. Some day he will be an illustrious professor of Canadian history at one of our more eminent universities.

It is ironic that we are providing an early retirement option to the teaching profession and making it possible for teachers to take the wonderful opportunity of retiring at an early age. I am struck by the fact that teachers are part of the group of 47 per cent of our work force that even has an employer-sponsored pension plan.

The majority of workers in this province have no employer-or company-sponsored plan of any kind. When we deduct from that the 47 per cent who are covered–the teachers, the public service, municipal employees and all other public sector workers–only between 25 to 30 per cent of the work force in private industry in Ontario has any company-sponsored pension plan at all.

The Treasurer, who is responsible for pension policy in this province, has a really major challenge before him. It is not going to be possible to provide the kinds of opportunities to public sector workers, such as teachers, the opportunities for generous pension plans with early retirement options when, at the same time, 75 per cent of those who work in the private sector are completely excluded, have no opportunity, no coverage, no benefit and no hope of obtaining benefits.

The Treasurer is in the midst of a review of pension legislation, and so far he has indicated he is not prepared to go the route of the Royal Commission on the State of Pensions in Ontario, which recommended a mandatory pension system that would cover everybody.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We have one of those.

Mr. McClellan: He can either expand the Canada pension plan so it pays more than $3,000 a year to retirees or he can do something about the inadequacy and lack of company-sponsored pension plan coverage for three quarters of our workers. It is simply unacceptable to come before the Legislature in the middle of a major review of pension legislation and say, "Yes, we are going to grant early retirement options for the teachers, but for those in the private sector, there is nothing."

I am struck as well by the fact that teachers make a fund in the neighbourhood of $8 billion available for public and community investment purposes, but at the same time we deny workers the opportunity to contribute to public pension plans of an equivalent nature. We also deny ourselves the opportunity to accumulate the same kinds of investment funds.

I simply point this out because it is indeed an ironic situation that so many people remain uncovered at a time when we are able to expand, increase, enhance and enrich benefits for those who have the opportunity to be covered under public plans.

Mr. Gordon: This is the new open government.

Mr. Lane: We are going to go to the people on this.

Mr. Harris: I would very briefly like to echo some of the sentiments expressed by the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon). I congratulate the government too on bringing in the initiative. I think it is a step in the right direction, although I echo the comments of the member for Sudbury that, had we been in government, we would have gone a little further and made it a little more meaningful.

I think a reasonable compromise to five years, as proposed by the member for Sudbury, is not at all unreasonable in view of the fact that the money is coming out of the superannuation fund.

9:20 p.m.

Let me tell the members a little about the superannuation fund. The teachers contribute seven per cent of their income to the fund, which

is matched by the government. It has historically been the case to provide for pensions for teachers. Some years ago–seven or eight perhaps–an extra one per cent was added whereby the teachers' contribution went to eight per cent. It is important to define why the teachers agreed to the extra percentage. It was an inflation adjustment based on eight per cent inflation. That was the amount perceived by the actuaries and agreed to by the government and teachers of the time; it was felt that one per cent extra would allow the fund to compensate for eight per cent inflation.

What happened was that if inflation went up by seven per cent, the pensions were increased by seven per cent and surpluses were allowed to accrue to the overall fund. If inflation went up by 10 per cent, teachers got only an eight per cent increase, with a two per cent bank there, based on the fact that their contributions did not come up to it.

Let me point out to members that as far as pensions go, it was probably actuarially far sounder than many pensions, certainly sounder than any pensions at the federal level, because it recognized this eight per cent factor, and one per cent was the added amount there.

In the past several years, we have been running with inflation at six, five, four or three per cent, and projections are that it will be at four or five per cent; so there should be lots of money in the teachers' superannuation fund.

For teachers to come up with a plan, and the government to agree to it, makes a lot of sense. It makes a lot of sense because teachers have been affected, and when teachers negotiate contracts, they have been affected by unforeseen events.

Teachers in the secondary and public school systems throughout contract negotiation periods over the past several years could not likely have anticipated some of the changes in education that would affect them.

The funding of the separate school system, which all parties have supported, was not likely to have been anticipated by the Nipissing negotiating team of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation back in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984. Back when I was chairman of the board, in 1976, 1978 and 1979, I did not anticipate when I was negotiating contracts that this would be a factor. Declining enrolment is also having an effect, as is Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions.

Some of the changes made by the government, albeit some of them have been well intentioned and probably very good, had not been anticipated by many of the teachers' groups; so they are facing problems.

We may look at the system as a whole. One, we are going to help solve problems of declining jobs among teachers. Two, when we look at education as a whole, this is aimed at helping to solve the problem of bringing new and invigorating teachers into the system. Three, when new and younger teachers come in, they cost the system far less money. It is a win, win and win. It is a win for the students, the parents, the board and the government.

I fail to see why we are limiting this to a three-year period. Accordingly, on behalf of the teachers of Ontario, I serve notice that our party will be moving an amendment when this proceeds into committee.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I appreciate the contributions from a number of members. They were all very helpful.

I want to say something on the comments of the member for Scarborough Centre. I do not apologize for the Treasurer of the day–not me particularly–taking the responsibility for reporting the actuarial position of the fund. This is an enormous and powerful fiscal instrument in the province; it is one of the largest, right up there with the Ontario budget itself, approaching $9 billion.

The province–all the taxpayers, through the government–has the responsibility to guarantee all the benefits, and as we know, this is a reasonably generous pension plan. I feel it is the fiscal responsibility of the Treasurer to have that modicum of control over the evaluation. However, I must assure the honourable member it is not our intention to direct in any way–that would not be acceptable to the teachers–the actual evaluation process undertaken by actuaries. At present, the teachers have direct input, and so do the members of the commission, and I believe this is the way it should continue.

I appreciate the support from the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen). He pointed out very effectively that the timing of this is targeting the benefits in a most advantageous way for everyone, not only for the teachers who will have the benefit of early retirement but also for the people in education administration as well as the young people who are in our school system.

I am glad he mentioned one particular group. They are the ones who entered late into the teaching profession from business and industry as well as women who have taken time out of a teaching career to raise families. Quite often they have taken five to 10 years out of a teaching

career, and it would not be possible for them to retire with a full pension without the benefits this bill would provide.

The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) has mentioned that we might have been more generous in the provisions of this pension. However, I am sure he is already aware that we are paying something more than $300 million–I forget the number I mentioned earlier. If inflation benefits are taken into consideration, it is expected that the total cost to the fund during the period, when the benefits are being paid out over the lifetime of the pensioners, that the additional cost will be more than $600 million. With that number in mind, I do not think the adjective "piker" should be applied to any of us who are supporting this bill.

As usual, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) made a very thoughtful and appropriate intervention. It is a matter of policy of this government to encourage the expansion of private pension plans wherever we possibly can see them established. However, rather than establish an entirely separate provincial public pension plan for industry, I would prefer to encourage the government of Canada with the provinces to improve the benefits of the Canada pension plan. I hope that over the years the honourable member and I, and others, will see that this happens.

Whether the next benefit is homemaker's pension, as I feel it should be, remains to be seen. However, I have already announced in this House a succession of improvements, including increased disability, that we will be paying for through increased pension payments.

The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) indicates his expectation that there will be plenty of money in the pension plan to pay the costs of these additions. I point out to him and to other members interested in this that last year, besides our share of the contributions equal to the teachers, we paid close to an additional $40 million in actuarial deficit makeup; during the past five years the amount has been $39 million, $119 million and $92 million, going back to 1980, when the actuarial makeup was $144 million. This was on the basis of the actuarial evaluation in 1981, which showed there was a substantial deficit. We expect the evaluation that will be made available in March to show a surplus, but I do not expect the surplus to be sufficient to pay this.

9:30 p.m.

The member for Nipissing, who was chairman of the Nipissing Board of Education some years ago, pointed out in his remarks that the additional one per cent is charged the teachers as a premium, or an application of money, to cover the cost of eight per cent inflation. Unfortunately, it is our our experience now, and it is becoming well known and understood, that this a grossly insufficient amount. It is our expectation we will have to inform the House and others in the actuarial report on that aspect of teachers' pensions that there is an actuarial deficit. At some time in the future it will have to be made up by the taxpayers of Ontario or, because the statute does not require it to be made up in that way, from some other source.

I want to make it plain that I am not in any way predicting that the pensions that have been part of the undertakings of school boards and this government over the years will not be met in full in the future. However, if anyone has the idea that indexing is already prepaid, unfortunately he is not in possession of the facts.

Mr. Gordon: Do not get nasty.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I was not going to use the word that was springing to mind, one I have heard so frequently in the House in the past few hours when there was a difference of opinion.

Mr. Gordon: Piker.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I can stand that one. If the honourable member thinks a $600-million program is one put forward by a piker, I cannot help his perceptions but, as usual, they are inadequate.

The comments made by the members have been useful. I am well aware that the teachers would have preferred a 10-year retirement window. We felt the costs did not warrant it. The motion passed by the committee in connection with this was for a window of up to five years. The member for Sudbury feels three years is inadequate. We think it is appropriate, and we ask for his support in that connection.

As a matter of fact, the three-year window will mean the additional retirements will have taken place in time for the next triennial evaluation. We believe the opportunity for 11,000 teachers to take early retirement is significant in improving opportunities for the teachers and for well-qualified junior teachers who have not had an opportunity to enter the system. We feel their entrance into the system will provide a leaven and an improvement that is worth the minimal costs I have been referring to. I sincerely hope the members will support this legislation.

Mr. Gordon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Why would the Treasurer insist on

being a piker and not give the teachers five years instead of three?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): That is not a point of order.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Sections 1 to 6, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 7:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Davis moves that clause 18a(d) of the act, as set out in section 7 of the bill, be amended by removing the last date "1989" and substituting therefor the year "1991."

Mr. Davis: Most of the discussion has taken place. This moves the window to five years and affords the teachers a greater opportunity to take advantage of the plan. That is the thrust of our amendment. I do not think we have to continue the debate unless my colleagues want to speak.

Mr. Harris: Briefly, the five years conforms with the recommendation of the all-party committee which was supported by all three parties in this Legislature. It was up to five years, and it is suggested that it go for five years.

The Treasurer mentioned that one per cent was not sufficient to cover the indexing. It is not one per cent, but two per cent: one per cent from the teachers and one per cent from the government. Very often, Treasurers and governments tend to forget a matching contribution is required by all employers, including the government of Ontario.

When he talks about shortcomings, there may be some, but I do not believe there are shortcomings based on the eight per cent inflation package when one looks at two per cent going in. If there are any shortcomings, it is because the government is not putting in its share.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I will speak again, if there are no others who want to take part.

There are two main benefits of the three-year window. The one I want to refer to first, although it is not the main one for me, is that by bringing this into effect now and passing it before the Legislature prorogues–if we do in the next few days–the teachers who will become eligible for retirement can make the decision to move out of the profession with the benefits we have already referred to, the benefits not only for the retiring teachers but also for the young people who will have an opportunity to move into new jobs.

If we are to have a window of 10 years, as recommended by the Ontario Teachers' Federation, or five years, as is the subject of this amendment, the effect will be spread out over a period and the thrust of the benefit will be somehow reduced or diluted. The three-year window will bring to the attention of those eligible that they have to give it what we hope will be their positive consideration. They will move to retirement and make room for new blood; a good thing, in every area except possibly politics.

I also want to point out a second matter of importance to me. My officials, ever quick to assist, have indicated that with a five-year window, there will be more teachers eligible and the costs will go up commensurately. The cost for the window we are proposing in our amendment will be $320 million for the actual pension. The indexing will cost almost that much again, giving an overall cost of about $600 million for the proposal we put forward.

9:40 p.m.

The honourable members opposite are under the impression this will be paid for entirely out of the assets of the fund. I can assure them this is definitely not going to be the case. We made regular makeup payments in the first five years of this decade, and I can assure them there will be other problems in making up the indexing component we referred to previously. If we go to the five-year period, my officials tell me the cost will move up to $550 million and the makeup for indexation will be even greater. So the cost would move to approximately $1 billion.

We are not prepared to talk about the amendment being out of order on the basis that it will involve the commitment of funds that could be construed as public. Undoubtedly there will be public funds involved.

We simply ask the honourable members to see our amendment as a fiscally responsible one that reacts to the proposals put forward by the teachers, and to the assessment of the situation made available to me by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) and his parliamentary assistant, the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft). They have co-operated in talking to the teachers and officials involved with the pension fund and in making the recommendation to the Treasurer in this connection.

We hope the honourable members will not support this amendment, however pleasant it might be to be generous in this regard. We feel

the position put by the government is a reasonable one and eminently supportable.

Mr. Gordon: I listened very carefully to the Treasurer's arguments, but I have to say it is the government that brought in the Futures program which promised every young person in this province a job for one year. The parents in this province are getting pretty darn tired of governments promising jobs for one year. We are tired of make-work projects in this province. That is what the Treasurer is talking about, a make-work project.

The Treasurer and the Minister of Education have the opportunity to employ a lot of young people if they increase this to five years. This means a lot of young people who have graduated from faculties of education and are going into the teaching profession will have the opportunity to have a long-term job for more than one year. As a matter of fact, they are going to teach for at least 35 or 40 years before they take their pensions.

The government should be ashamed. It brings out a Futures program and says it will give people jobs for one year. Here it has an opportunity of providing long-term jobs and it turns its back. If that is not political expediency, I do not know what is.

The Treasurer says perhaps in three years he will take another look at it. What is he doing? He is keeping people on tenterhooks. He is creating a lot of anxiety in the minds and hearts of teachers. They deserve better than that. The party on this side feels for people. We know we have a lot of people in the teaching profession in this province who are getting older.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You did not feel for them before.

Mr. Gordon: I notice the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) is heckling me. He is a senior minister in this Liberal government. He is the guy who wants to dump poison all over northeastern Ontario to kill some caterpillars. He is not willing to use bacillus thuringiensis. He would rather put other poisonous gases all over northern Ontario, and he is the fellow who is heckling the teachers of this province. He has absolutely no heart at all.

When we consider the number of teachers in this province who have become redundant as a result of declining numbers of pupils, when we consider the problem we have with separate schools in this province, the government is going to turn its back on the teachers at this time? It should be ashamed of itself.

Surely when the Treasurer has a fund of $9 billion and is saying that $600 million is too much, he has his priorities mixed up. I would hope the Treasurer will reconsider his point of view on this matter. If he talks to the teachers of this province at present, they will tell him it is very important that there be younger teachers to teach the pupils. More young people are required in this profession. He has this opportunity to give the young people in this province jobs. Would he rather they stay on welfare? Is that what he is interested in? Perhaps after one year in Futures they can collect unemployment insurance.

The government has an opportunity here to prove this is really a liberal government and not just an expedient government, a government that does not really care about people. The Treasurer should go back to Earl's corner and have a talk with the boys at the Shell station, maybe kick the tires on that tractor. Those farmers, who have a lot of common sense, will tell him they would rather see their sons and daughters have a job. It is time to put some of these teachers who are ageing–not by choice, mind you, because nobody ages by choice–the opportunity of retiring with dignity and a half decent pension.

I ask the Treasurer and the Minister of Education to consider the fact that there are many technical teachers who were lured into teaching with the promise of a better life and that they would be adding so much to the lives of young people in this province. Now the government is turning its back on these people. This three years is not going to answer the problem the majority of these technical teachers have. It is not going to solve the problem I pointed out earlier this evening, that the women teachers have in retiring in this province.

I implore the Treasurer and the Minister of Education to open their hearts and minds. We on this side of the House know there was quite a discussion in cabinet about this bill and whether it should be five years or three years. We know who was responsible for making it three years. It is time the government showed a little bit of heart and common sense.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I mentioned in my remarks just in reference to the placing of the amendment by the official opposition that I felt it should be considered out of order since it would undoubtedly involve the use of additional public funds. I chose the opportunity during the comments to check with the legal counsel for the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, as well as the head of our pension policy group, who are independent, capable civil servants. They have assured me that the passage of the amendment will entail the use of additional public funds. Therefore, I ask you

to rule the amendment out of order on the basis of rule 15.

Mr. Chairman: I concur with the minister that the amendment is out of order. There is ample–

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Let me finish. Order.

There is ample precedent. This came up about a month and a half ago. When government moneys are being expended, or the time is being extended which will cause the addition of government moneys to be expended, the motion can only be brought by a minister.

Mr. Pope: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: You cannot make a point of order. You can challenge my ruling, but the ruling has been made.

Mr. Pope: The whole point of this legislation entails government expenditures. We are talking about 1989.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It has been put forward by the government.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Pope: That is right. We can amend his legislation. What is he talking about?

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The ruling has been made. You have one choice. You either come to order or you challenge my ruling. It is one or the other.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Are you speaking on the same point or a different point?

Mr. Harris: On a point of order: I ask you, as chairman of the committee, whether we could be allowed to offer viewpoints on the point of order made by the Treasurer, in view of two or three things that have taken place?

One, since the Treasurer accepted the amendment and is prepared to speak against it, I find the figures the Treasurer has given totally unsubstantiable.

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me. Order. You are on the same point of order, and the chair has made its ruling under standing order 15.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, might I then indicate to you that I will challenge your ruling on the basis that you did not ask for anybody else to give any viewpoints. You made up your mind on the basis of statements made by the Treasurer. You refused to listen to opposite parties–

Mr. Chairman: Order. If you challenge my ruling, that is fine.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. We are waiting for the Speaker to enter the chamber so the Chairman can report to the Speaker.

Mr. Harris: While we are waiting, can I ask the chair under which standing order he has ruled us out of order?

Mr. Chairman: It is under standing order 15, plus ample precedent of this House, the Parliament of Canada and the Parliament of London.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. May I draw the attention to the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) that he is not in his seat, and he is disturbing the House.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: The member for Port Arthur is in his seat.

Mr. Chairman: Order. My ruling has been challenged so I am putting this question to the House.

Mr. Harris: It is absolutely the worst ruling this Legislature has ever had.

10:23 p.m.

The committee divided on the Chairman's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

Ayes 47; nays 27.

Sections 7 to 13, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 14:

Miss Stephenson: As the individual who was responsible for the transfer of the teachers' superannuation fund to the responsibility of the Treasurer, I feel very badly that this amendment is included in this amendment to the Teachers' Superannuation Act. There was never any intent when that transfer was envisaged to permit any change in the way in which the relationship was established among the Treasurer, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission and the actuary.

I believe all that is really necessary in order to ensure there is no conflict of interest on the part of the Treasurer is to delete subsections 64(4), (5) and (6) of the act, as set out in section 14 of the bill, and to leave that section of the Teachers' Superannuation Act as it is currently written. That is a very simple amendment. Simply delete what is there.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: May we have that in writing?

Miss Stephenson: Yes, the minister may have it in writing.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, in the interests of time, while the amendment is coming, since the clock is getting there and we would like to see this bill proceeded with, perhaps you might entertain other comments.

Mr. Chairman: On section 14? We are in the middle of a motion.

Miss Stephenson moves that section 14 be amended by deleting subsections 64(4), (5) and (6) of the act as set out in section 14 of the bill.

I am sorry. That is out of order because–

Miss Stephenson: Then how do we deal with it?

Mr. Chairman: The only purpose of section 14 of the bill is to add subsections (4), (5) and (6) to section 64 of the act. Therefore, the way to deal with them when it is a simple deletion is to vote against them.

Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, if you rule that one out of order, I have a substitute, which is already drafted.

Mr. Chairman: Miss Stephenson moves that section 14 of the bill be amended by deleting subsections 64(4), (5) and (6) of the act as set out in section 14 of the bill and replacing them with the following subsections:

"(4) The actuary shall deliver to the Teachers' Superannuation Commission every valuation made under subsection (3) forthwith after making the valuation.

"(5) The commission shall transmit to the Treasurer the valuation report which is determined to be acceptable."

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, February 12, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) has a statement, but he will not be here for a few moments. With your permission, sir, and with the permission of the House, we would like to stand it down for a few minutes until the minister arrives. I know he is coming and he has indicated to me that he wants to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House agreeable?

Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, we are all trying to be very co-operative on what may be the last day of the session, but this is not the first time this has happened in this session. I know how embarrassed the government House leader has been and is today. Those are not rosy cheeks; they are embarrassed cheeks.

One of our first questions would have been to the minister in question. I suggest that we simply recess for five minutes until the minister gets here and we can–

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Let us recess until tomorrow.

Mr. Timbrell: Okay; fine.

MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

Mr. McCague: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: What I understand is your publication, Allowances and Services: A Guide for Members of the Ontario Legislature, states on page 28 regarding mailings:

"It is implicit that the content of these mailings be nonpartisan in nature and restricted to outlining legislative developments in the House and committees and the role played by the member in this legislative process."

I have a copy of a newsletter put out by the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan) which I feel is a blatant abuse of that clause in the rules by which we are supposed to abide. I ask you, Mr. Speaker–and I will pass this to you–to take a look at this and advise the House now that I have raised this point.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the member for drawing this to my attention. I understand those are guidelines. I do not know whether I really have the authority to rule on that. However, I do appreciate your sending it to me, and I will certainly review the matter.

If there are no ministerial statements–

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I asked for your indulgence and the indulgence of the House. The Minister of Natural Resources has indicated he has a statement that he is anxious to put before the House on the off-chance that this may be the last day. I am advised by one of the other members he will be here in a few moments.

If you would not mind starting the question period, we would be delighted to respond. If the leaders would like to stand down opening questions, that is fine. Perhaps some of their back-benchers have matters they want to lay before the ministry in the House. That is not unreasonable, surely.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to proceed with some other questions. It might be appropriate if, for the next session, you would bring it to the attention of the government that this is far from the first time it has happened. In fairness to everyone, a better effort should be made next time.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: There are probably lots of people who would say the conduct of the business has been something less than perfect. There have been occasions when some members of the ministry have not been able to be here immediately following prayers, but they have been here within five minutes to answer questions. There have been many occasions when the seats in the official opposition, even in the third party, if I may be so bold–

Some hon. members: Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Oh, yes. We have had a good, long and productive session, and with any luck it will continue for another couple of weeks–

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for York South, no comment?

Mr. Rae: Yes, if you want–

Mr. Speaker: You had risen on that same point of order.

Mr. Rae: Just to say we are ready to go.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). Yesterday in his windup speech on Bill 94, while trying to demonstrate his commitment to accessibility in the health care system, the minister asked the following question: "Are we going to prescribe for the people of this province the necessity of carrying their bank book, their bank balance, with them every time they go to see a physician or any other health care professional?"

If the Premier supports the minister in expressing his concern about taking a bank book to visit any "other health care professional," will he give an undertaking today that he intends to opt in all chiropractors in the Ontario health insurance plan? Alternatively, does he believe they are not health care professionals?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We have no plans beyond what has been discussed in this House.

Mr. Grossman: In that case, I take it the Premier dissociates himself from the remarks made by his own minister when he referred to other health care professionals. I remind the Premier that chiropractors do bill OHIP, they do provide insured services, and there are thousands of seniors who use their services and pay, not five or 10 per cent extra, but sometimes 100 per cent extra over the OHIP schedule–

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Grossman: Is it therefore the Premier's position that he dissociates himself from the position taken by the Minister of Health? Or does he believe chiropractors are not health care professionals?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not think the honourable member put the proposition properly, and if he has some particular views on this subject I am sure the committee reviewing the subject will be very interested in hearing them.

I am not an authority on this. I have never been to a chiropractor. I may need one some day; one never knows. I understand there is a cap on the amount of charges they can make to OHIP. It is a somewhat different relationship.

As I have said, the answer is that we have no plans to change the system beyond what has been discussed in this House. The member is very well aware of it. If he does have some ideas, he should bring them to committee. I am sure the minister would be delighted to have a discussion with him.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In view of the fact that we have been dealing with the extra billing legislation, a very important aspect of the health care system, does the Premier not agree that the proper direction to go is a massive expansion of the community health centre program so we are no longer looking at fee for service for each individual professional in the health care system but at a multiprofessional team approach to health care in the province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member alludes to the grand problem. The pressures on the health care system with respect to our capacity to pay have to be looked at, and there are a number of imaginative alternatives. As he knows, we have taken a number of initiatives with respect to the noninstitutional care of seniors. I think we have to look at all the alternatives.

It is my very sincere hope that once this difference of opinion in the province that exists between the government and some members of the medical profession subsides, we can sit down together and sort through the alternatives calmly and rationally.

The issues at stake are beyond partisanship; they are extremely important in the long term. We have a profound commitment to guarantee quality health care in the long term, but pressures developing now will make it difficult for any society to handle all of them. We need some thoughtful leadership, and we are prepared to provide it.

Mr. Grossman: Just so the record is straight, these are not my suggestions. This party does not believe, and has not believed, that chiropractors should be opted in. We are taking the words of the Minister of Health in a carefully drawn address he made yesterday, a very important speech on a most important issue. I presume that they were not casual and that he carefully prepared those words.

The Premier and the minister have indicated their great concern about people paying extra for health care professionals. Is the Premier comfortable with the fact that thousands of women are paying an extra $50 or $60 to take prenatal classes in hospitals? In fact, it is not extra; that is the charge. Is the Premier prepared to give a commitment today to eliminate that extra charge totally for all those women who are forced to pay to get prenatal classes in hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am aware of that situation. As of this moment, the answer is no, I am not prepared to make that commitment. We are looking at it. We have taken some major initiatives in this regard.

If the member is recommending that, he should come to the committee and suggest it as we review the entire payment scheme for health care in the province. The member knows where we stand on the issue. We are proceeding in that regard, and we will discuss the other matters in the future.

Mr. Grossman: We have ascertained that the Premier wants to ban extra billing, not to achieve full accessibility for all people to all parts of the health care system.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton), who also seems to have been unable to join us today. Perhaps in his absence, I will ask the question of his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Yesterday, we heard that 150 people would lose their jobs because of the closure of the Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant. Today, we hear there might be a 10 per cent layoff of Eastman Kodak workers. Before we appeal one last time to the government to do something to save the jobs and technology at the Urban Transportation Development Corp., I ask the minister, given the other pressures that are being faced, will he recommend to his leader that UTDC not be sold to either of the two bidders unless job guarantees are in place for far more than half the workers? Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe that question was answered yesterday. I think the Leader of the Opposition should wait while the Minister of Transportation and Communications comes in.

Mr. Grossman: Perhaps we can ask the minister to redirect it to his colleague, who has visited us.

Mr. Speaker: I will have to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Do you want it redirected?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Yes, please.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the Minister of Transportation and Communications is aware of the question.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition will repeat the question. I heard only part of it.

Mr. Grossman: Simply put, is the minister prepared to give a commitment to this House that none of the UTDC bids that have been received will be accepted unless they contain job guarantees for far more than half the workers?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am not sure that is the same question I partially heard on the way in. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition forgot what his question was.

The Leader of the Opposition has repeatedly asked this question, and the answer from those on the government side of the House has been consistent. Jobs and job retention in Thunder Bay and Kingston relevant to UTDC are paramount in the mind of this government before we make any decisions on the disposal or otherwise of UTDC.

Mr. Grossman: I know the minister is not surprised that this issue is being raised in the House today. I read in the Globe and Mail–our only source of information since this government will hand out no information on UTDC–that two offers came in on or before the deadline. It is fair for the opposition parties to ask the minister, not to tell us all the details of long complicated offers but to provide for us today before we adjourn the answer to two simple questions: how many jobs are guaranteed in the Lavalin and Bombardier offers, and what is the total purchase price contained in each of those two offers?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Judging from the comments made by the leader in Kingston some time ago and in his interviews with certain newspapers last week, I can understand that he is not getting his facts straight.

The Leader of the Opposition will know the bids closed last night at five o'clock in Toronto and Montreal and we have not had an opportunity to view those. They are with Wood Gundy and will be analysed over the next several days by its staff.

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister explain why a private investment firm such as Wood Gundy will have the privilege of making recommendations to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the minister which they will listen to, while the democratically elected members of this Legislature will not have the same privilege of reviewing the bids through a committee and making recommendations to the government before it makes a final decision?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: It is good business for leaders in the field of business to have an opportunity to advise this government or any other body involved in a transaction of this nature.

Mr. Grossman: Given the government's commitment to no walls and barriers, open government and freedom of information, I wonder whether the minister will give us one simple commitment. Before this House adjourns today or tomorrow, whenever it is–let us talk about today–

Mr. Speaker: Let us ask a question today.

Mr. Grossman: Before the House adjourns either for the day or for several months at six o'clock, will the minister be kind enough to call his agents at Wood Gundy, ask them what the job guarantees and the purchase prices are in those two offers and either provide that information to the House or just send a note over to the leaders of the two opposition parties?

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: There was an interesting comment made from the back benches.

It is important to know that, unlike the honourable member's colleagues in Ottawa, we are not contemplating the sale of UTDC to the United States or any other country. At 2:20 p.m., it is impossible to guarantee that the information the leader is requesting could be made available in the next two or three hours.

I will accommodate him with that phone call, but I will not stand here and guarantee to the House that this information will be available.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I have received a note from the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). He has a statement. Would you like to revert to statements?

Agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Do we have a copy of the statement?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sorry. I thought the copies were distributed. They are coming. Shall I read the statement or would the Speaker like me to wait until members have received their copies?

I am sure the copies have been delivered, and if I may–

Mr. Speaker: Continue.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

SPRAY PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: As the House knows, I am extremely concerned about the infestation of spruce and jack pine budworm and gypsy moth throughout Ontario. I am also aware that there is a great deal of public support for our proposal to combat those infestations with a combination of accelerated cutting and an aerial spray program involving chemical and biological insecticides.

However, I recognize that there is a great deal of opposition to the use of chemical insecticides. Therefore, I will be recommending to the cabinet that we use only baccillus thuringiensis in our 1986 spray program. I believe this is the only way we can ensure support for our program in this House.

I am sure members realize the value and importance of our forests and the need to protect them. I would ask for the support of the House as we proceed with our 1986 aerial spraying program.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was under the impression that statements and the provision of time for statements were to announce something new for the government or for a ministry. There is no change here from the former policy. There is a change from what was planned, but there is no change in government policy.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would honourable members take their seats. It is not a point of order.

ORAL QUESTIONS
(continued)

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations concerning the withdrawal of funds by Dominion Stores from its pension plan.

Is the minister aware of the fact that the trustees for the Dominion Stores plan passed an amendment to the plan dated January 14, 1986, which was to take effect on January 1, 1986, and which for the first time added conditions to the plan that allowed them to withdraw money from the plan?

Can the minister explain why the Pension Commission of Ontario gave approval in December 1985 to these same trustees to withdraw that money when the trustees had not given themselves the power to do that until 30 days later? Can he explain that incredible discrepancy?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: As members know, legal representatives of the employees of Dominion Stores have launched a legal action in this matter. I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment in any way.

Mr. Rae: The minister is not going to be allowed to hide behind that. The members of the Progressive Conservative Party were silent on this subject. They will have their turn to defend

42 years of inactivity with respect to the pension fund of Ontario. I want to get to the minister who is responsible now.

He cannot hide behind the kind of action that has been taken. Of course the employees have taken legal action. The previous government would not protect them. Does one have to go to court in order to get some protection? What other action would this government expect them to take?

Can the minister tell me how the Pension Commission of Ontario could conceivably have allowed a withdrawal in December 1985 when the plan gave no explicit approval to the trustees to withdraw that money and the commission did not give that approval until January 1986?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The information I have from the pension commission is that all withdrawals were made legally, properly and in accordance with the agreement into which the employees entered with their employer. If there is any question about that, and obviously the leader of the third party thinks there is, then that is a matter for the courts to decide. That is where it is now.

Mr. Rae: Can the minister explain why, on November 28, 1985, the pension commission sent out the following regulation with respect to the refund of surplus assets to plan sponsors, which was to take effect on January 1, 1986, "The commission reserves the right also to require in certain situations that notice of the refund request be given to members and their agents."

Can the minister explain why, in a plan that was not part of negotiations between the company and the union in the sense of being part of a collective agreement, the only trustees were Dominion Stores? The Dominion Stores trustees are asking for the withdrawal and taking it; a conflict of interest if I ever saw one.

Can the minister explain why the pension commission did not insist, prior to the withdrawal being permitted, the employees at least be informed of it? Why were they not informed at any time?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: In the notice the pension commission sent out, it said, "In certain conditions." In the case of the Dominion Stores employees it was the determination of the pension commission, and I have no reason to question that at this time, that it was carried out under the proper legal procedures under the normal practice. The commission felt it was perfectly proper for that withdrawal to be made.

Obviously, the employees and members of the third party think it was done improperly. The employees have done what they should do. They have taken the matter to court to get a determination. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on what the results of that determination are going to be.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Rae: My new question is for the Treasurer, regarding gasoline prices. He will be aware there has been a dramatic shift in the situation around the world. He will also be aware a 20 per cent drop in the price of Canadian crude, which took place in January, should translate into a price reduction of $2.50 every time a consumer buys a fill-up of gas for his or her car.

Can the minister tell us—and particularly as it affects the people of northern Ontario who are consistently paying higher rates and prices than those in southern Ontario—what steps he and the government of Ontario are taking to make sure all Ontario residents, especially those in northern Ontario, will finally see some reduction at the pumps in relation to the reduction of prices which is going on around the world?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In response to a number of letters I have had in this connection, I have been able at least to put in a first paragraph in which I assured the people complaining about this matter that Ontario had the lowest gas tax in Canada, excepting Saskatchewan and Alberta. That is a matter in which we have taken a certain degree of pride.

2:30 p.m.

The member may recall, having read Hansard or being interested in politics, back in the 1970s, when the prices were escalating rapidly, we were very concerned in this House. In those days we were in opposition—happy days indeed—and we were asking that the increase in the prices would not be effective to the consumer until the cheap gas, so to speak, had gone through the system. As I recall, the delays in the increases amounted to about 30 days to six weeks—

Mr. Timbrell: Sixty days.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Sixty days, somebody is telling me; right.

Now that it is going in the other direction, we are also concerned about it. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) very recently informed me that he has received communications from one major supplier that it expects a price decrease to be noticeable at the pumps—

Mr. Turner: When?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: When? In April or May.

Mr. Turner: Oh, come on; you have got to be kidding.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We hoped they could do better than that, but we have been inquiring and I am sure the member knows the substantial decrease, down to almost $15 a barrel, is not in the contract oil price but the spot price amount.

Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me another moment–or maybe I could wait for the supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: It will be in order to wait for the supplementary.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a chart prepared by the government to compare gasoline prices in Sault Ste. Marie with Guelph, Ontario, during last year. In Guelph, there are independent dealers and competition so price wars break out and consumers get occasional breaks in their prices. In the Sault, the independents have been driven out of business.

What will the Treasurer do to make gasoline prices in Sault Ste. Marie and elsewhere in Ontario comparable with the prices charged residents of southern Ontario in the future?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member will know that the government has independently proceeded to have a review of northern gas prices.

Mr. Rae: What do you mean, "independently"?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We did it, did we not?

Mr. Rae: Yes, finally. Where is it?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The report is pending and will be made public in the near future. I understand comparisons of prices have been taken in various communities. I asked the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) while the question was being asked and he said he is expecting the report and he hopes it will be tabled in the very near future. In the unlikely event that the House is not in session, it will be made public.

It seems to me the findings of that report are something the Treasurer and Minister of Revenue ought to look at very carefully.

Mr. Andrewes: Now that the Treasurer's attention is directed towards lower gas prices and, indeed, the New Democratic Party's attention apparently now is directed towards lower gas prices–

Interjections.

Mr. Andrewes: It did not appear that way when we debated the budget bills and they voted against our amendments.

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary is?

Mr. Andrewes: Would the Treasurer consider in his next budget bringing in a scale of taxing measures that would address the amendments we put to him in our discussion on the budget debate?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member has put forward a novel and interesting alternative, but the House in its wisdom saw fit to abandon that ad valorem approach. I can assure him that the matter is a serious one and I do not want to or intend to treat it with levity. People want to see the arrival of lower gasoline prices. It will have a tremendous and positive impact on our economy and I sincerely hope this will come about.

As in most other matters, this one will be receiving the attention of myself and the people advising me as we make plans for another budget.

Mr. Pouliot: It is dangerous for the Treasurer to mislead the people of Ontario by saying that Ontario pays the lowest price for gas, as he is no doubt aware, or would be aware if he travelled a little more. With respect, he is getting a two-month break. Come on up north and see at first hand what our first Canadians are paying for gas. They are paying $6.50 a gallon.

The Treasurer has that mandate. Therefore, will he give this House the assurance that he will exercise his power and either introduce some incentives or lower the price of gasoline so our people up north will have a chance to become like the others?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I hope that the honourable member did not misunderstand me or that I did not unintentionally say something I did not mean to say. I am not talking about the lowest gas prices; far from it. However, the tax is as low as any other across Canada, except those in Alberta and Saskatchewan, which are producing provinces.

It is interesting to note in this connection that in Alberta, where there is no tax at all, the price per litre is very similar to what one would pay in the southern part of the province, although not in the areas to which the member is referring, above the 50th parallel or something like that. As well, no taxes are payable at all in the very far northern reaches of the province.

U.S. FARM BILL

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Barring a

major crop catastrophe in the world this year, United States farmers are virtually guaranteed to get $60 a ton more for their corn than Ontario farmers will be getting at harvest time. What plans does the minister have to minimize this devastating impact on the Ontario agricultural economy?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am well aware of the concerns the honourable member has just raised, concerns I am sure he read in a Toronto Star article that I think appeared today. Those concerns are very real; there is no question about it. I am aware of this and I am aware of the potential impact it can have on Canadian and Ontario farmers.

However, I must tell the member that the province has no jurisdiction over domestic US farm policy. The ministry is working with the government of Canada to develop a Canadian national agricultural strategy that may provide a balance to the US policy.

I must also tell honourable members across the House, who believe that their Prime Minister is on the right track as far as free trade is concerned, that the impact of the US farm bill further heightens the government of Ontario's concern about the impact of free trade on Ontario agriculture.

Mr. Stevenson: I remind the minister that 75 per cent of the corn in Canada is grown in Ontario and yet the minister did nothing yesterday but write a letter as far as high-fructose corn sweeteners were concerned.

The deficiency payments that the American corn producers will get next year are $9 billion. That is twice the value of all the agricultural products grown in Ontario. To match that program will cost the government about $225 million. What is the minister prepared to do to balance the impact of that program on Ontario farmers?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: If the previous administration had not left us in such dire financial straits, I might have been able to come up a few million dollars. However, as the member is well aware, we are looking at several submissions that were sent to the task force that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and I have established. A report is supposed to be completed by the end of February.

If the member chooses to return to the House in the new session, considering the rather disappointing performance over there during the last session, he will hear a budget. I hope in that budget we will be able to tell him the excellent policies we will have for our farmers to counter some of the other practices in the US.

2:40 p.m.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will wait. The clock is going on.

Mr. Ramsay: With all the pending crises in agriculture this fall, and especially with the United States farm bill, does the minister agree that Ontario should be taking a stronger stand on third-party debt review, something he agreed with before he was minister, and that he should be pushing for that with his federal counterpart?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We had a good discussion about third-party debt review at the–

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Please do not ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food to strain his voice.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: There was a thorough discussion about this at the last conference of agriculture ministers two or three weeks ago. Outside of one or two ministers, it was unanimous that an arbitrary settlement not be imposed by a third party or even by the courts.

Mr. Rae: They would rather have the banks do it themselves.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The banks now are writing down debt. I will be talking to the federal Minister of Agriculture, because I feel there could be an arbitrary settlement on accumulated interest over eight per cent. I think that feeling is shared by Bill Uruski, Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba. I do not have much to complain about with that kind of arbitrary settlement. It is something I will be discussing with the federal minister before he makes a final decision on his amendment to the Bankruptcy Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Ministry of the Environment concerning the massive natural gas storage facility proposed to be built near Cobourg.

Last July I asked the minister to order an environmental assessment of this project. In December he received a recommendation from the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee. We have still not heard his decision. No plant of this size is proposed to be built anywhere else in Canada. Will the minister tell the House whether he is going to designate this project under the Environmental Assessment Act?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I referred the Northumberland liquefied natural gas matter to the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee, which reported to me. It is a private sector project; that is the first thing I recall about the situation. It would not fall under the normal circumstances of a municipal or provincial government or Ontario Hydro project.

In discussions with my colleagues, I have attempted to come up with a mechanism that would take into consideration all the environmental concerns that have been expressed by some of the individuals in that area. I have received representations from residents in the area who are strongly in favour of it and wish to proceed quickly and from others who do not. They have asked that I find a mechanism whereby all the environmental concerns they have brought to our attention as a government can be addressed. I am in the process of doing that at this time.

Mrs. Grier: I hope the minister will make his decision based on his assessment of what is best for the environment, not on the weight of public opinion of the facility on one side or the other.

It is the largest facility of its kind proposed for anywhere in Canada. It will be 50 metres high, located in a rural area with 500 people within two kilometres of it. It is precisely the kind of project the Environmental Assessment Act was designed to include and the minister has the power to designate it.

Given the limitations of an Ontario Energy Board hearing, what kind of mechanism is the minister likely to find, other than a full environmental assessment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I understand what the member is saying when she talks about the limitations if we had what we would call a normal Ontario Energy Board hearing. In the past, the hearings have taken into consideration some of the environmental concerns we have raised, but not to the degree I would like to see.

As I said to her, I am attempting to develop a mechanism whereby all these environmental concerns can be addressed and an ultimate decision can be reached which is environmentally sound.

Ms. Fish: Will the minister accept the recommendation of of the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee and subject this proposal to an environmental assessment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Is that the position of the Progressive Conservative Party on this issue?

Mr. Gordon: The minister cannot handle it, can he?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I would be surprised if that is the position of the Progressive Conservative Party. Is this a Toronto issue? Is this a yuppie issue? Yes or no?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Let us pretend it is question period and have a chance to ask some questions.

FLOODING

Mr. Harris: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. I want to congratulate him on getting that statement out so soon after our House leader called the government House leader to explain what the consequences were of not having the statement. The minister did a good job.

The minister will know that many property owners along some sections of the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, face the danger of serious flood damage this spring. According to many experts, Ontario residents face the most serious flooding ever. There are concerns that his ministry has done little to prevent what could be millions and millions of dollars worth of damage.

Why is the minister not taking any concrete steps to deal with this situation? How much more damage has to take place before he decides to act?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We dealt with this very issue at cabinet today. We will be releasing the information any time now.

Mr. Harris: What have you been doing for the last eight months?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I did not interrupt the honourable member when he was asking the question. He is getting awfully snarky these days. He used to be a nice guy.

We are taking a very responsible action on this issue. The release is imminent. We have addressed ourselves to what a provincial government can do. I am having difficulty with the member's kissing cousins in Ottawa. That Mulroney gang does not want to help at all.

We have 3,000 miles of shoreline in Ontario. That is considerably more than a provincial government can undertake without help from the federal government. We have a short-term program to address ourselves to the spring thaw and subsequent floods. We are developing a long-term program and we will do everything within the power of this government to protect the shoreline.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Harris: The minister has not given us one specific concrete step, which is usual. That is what he has done for the past eight months. The problem is not there that long.

The minister does not like to deal with specifics. Let me ask him about one. Several thousand acres of prime farm land in parts of Harwich township will be devastated this spring if the dike in the Rondeau Marsh area fails as expected without remedial measures now. He removed the $1 million from the program announced by this government and said it was not necessary. There are 60 to 70 homes along this dike in danger. It is possible that the entire village of Erieau could be isolated and that the water supply, which runs along the dike, could be completely cut off.

The minister knows that repairs and remedial measures are required now. When is he going to respond to the concerns of those people and get on with the remedial measures that are necessary?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I thank the member for the question, but I would like to bring into focus something that is very important. While he would like to take some credit for the initiatives we are going to take–

Mr. Harris: A pretty specific question.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member is going to do it again now. It takes him a long time to learn–

Mr. Harris: Is the minister going to deal with this one or not?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Would the member like me to answer the question? Before he broached the question, the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller), the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan), the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) and the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy) gave much more positive input to help us develop the kind of program needed. They have not just stood up and quarrelled about what has been going on and how little has been done in the past.

When we release what our program is going to be in the short term and in the long term, the people of Ontario will be convinced that we are going to do much more than the previous government ever did on the flooding problem.

Mr. Rae: Can the minister explain why the federal government was given misinformation by his ministry about this situation on October? Can he explain why the federal government was told by his ministry that, in its opinion, water levels were receding and the problem had reached its peak the previous spring?

Can he explain why, up until this time, no provincial direct assistance has been forthcoming, not with respect to flood insurance but with respect to stopping the flooding before it happens? Can he explain the systematic inactivity in his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The honourable member has raised this question before and I have looked into the business of providing information. The member is wrong. In fact, in a cyclical way, when the water levels were actually receding, that was the evidence at that time. The evidence was proper and it was confirmed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. This is not just from my ministry. I want to share that with the member.

The problem we are looking at and are faced with is precipitation, which is going to continue to raise the levels. Certainly, we are going to share any information with the member. I do not know why he would suspect we would give out any information that is not credible.

Mr. Gillies: Because the minister is incompetent; that is why.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: There would not be any purpose. Why would we do it?

ABORTION CLINICS

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Premier. Given Monday's provincial court judgement that the padlocking of the entrance to the Morgentaler Clinic did not constitute mischief, and given the predictable conclusion by anti-choice groups that the judgement is a declaration of open season for harassment actions, will the Premier take the only reasonable position on this matter, namely, to encourage an appeal of this very questionable judgement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I understand it, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is reviewing all the legal options at the moment and I am not in a position to report anything.

Ms. Gigantes: I wonder how many more actions such as this morning's we are going to see, given that position by the Premier. The real problem lies not with the courts but with the government. Access to safe, legal abortions is lacking for many women in all areas of Ontario and for all women in many areas of Ontario. How does he intend to carry out his own election commitments on this question?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not in a position to say anything more to the honourable member.

She knows the policy of this government. I have said with respect to the legal questions that the Attorney General is reviewing them. If there is anything to announce, he will tell the member. He always shares everything with her first.

Ms. Fish: A series of questions was put to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) about a week ago on a very real obstacle to accessibility being created in the Windsor area. Will the Premier undertake to ensure that his minister not only replies to those questions but also reports to this House on the total question of equality of access across the province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will discuss that with the very capable Minister of Health. I recall the member putting that question a week or so ago. As I recall, the minister undertook to look into it and report back. I do not know the status of the investigation he undertook at the member's prompting, but I will remind him that he should be back to her with an answer forthwith.

ACID SPILL

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, who I believe is on the premises somewhere. The minister will know of the very serious train derailment in the riding of Parry Sound this morning, which has resulted in at least seven cars leaking sulphuric acid into a local lake. Can the minister advise the House what steps he is taking to address this serious environmental hazard?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am informed that officials of various agencies, including the Ministry of the Environment, were on the site this morning to evaluate it. As the member knows, and he knows the area well, one of the things they are trying to do is to contain any spill in Cranberry Lake itself rather than have it make its way out of Cranberry Lake into adjacent waterways.

In addition, to neutralize it, 15 rail cars of limestone are en route from Toronto; Falconbridge is sending two truckloads of limestone from Sudbury, and Inco is sending some limestone slurry. Officials are on the scene at the present time.

This brings into focus the concern all members of the House share about the number of derailments we have had recently. Perhaps they have received a lot of additional publicity because of dangerous materials on those trains. I think there has been some discussion federally as well. We want to ensure all rail lines are in the best possible shape so this does not happen.

We will continue to do whatever is necessary to neutralize the sulphuric acid and get it cleaned up.

Mr. Eves: From his remarks, I am sure the minister is aware that Cranberry Lake empties into Beers Lake, which goes through a chain of lakes, including Joselin Lake, Mogridge Lake and Blackstone Lake, and eventually into Georgian Bay. Can the minister give us his assurance that the sulphuric acid now in Cranberry Lake will not be allowed to reach Georgian Bay or any other body of water from which human beings take their water supply?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is the effort of the ministry, according to the notes provided to me. Their main effort at present is to try to contain it in that one lake. As the member appropriately points out, there are a number of other waterways the sulphuric acid could reach. We want to ensure it is neutralized within Cranberry Lake through the limestone and slurry that are being brought in. The member legitimately makes a valid point. The second thing we want to do in that area–not secondary in importance–is to contain the sulphuric acid to the one waterway so it does not make its way into other waterways and cause a further problem.

Mr. Wildman: Since the minister is concerned about the federal government's responsibility for the safety of rail transportation in general in relation to spills, will he prevail on his colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) to communicate this province's objection to the application of the railways for Canadian Transport Commission approval of the removal of rear train crews, which will make it far more difficult for train crews to respond to this kind of emergency in the future?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will be pleased to draw that matter to their attention. I think the primary thrust of the question of the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) was to ensure that our ministry was following its mandate. However, I will certainly do that as well, because it speaks to the greater problem that exists in rail transportation at this time.

3 p.m.

ARK EDEN NURSING HOME

Mr. McClellan: In the absence of the Minister of Health, I wish to ask the Premier a question about today's Court of Appeal decision with respect to the Ark Eden Nursing Home.

The Premier will be aware that 42 young people were rescued from the Ark Eden Nursing Home and placed in community facilities as a result of a joint endeavour between the Ministry of Health, a number of community associations and the Reena Foundation. The Court of Appeal has ruled that the Ministry of Health did not have the power to revoke the licence.

My first question is, will the Premier give us his assurance on behalf of the government that no mentally retarded developmentally handicapped young people will be placed in the Ark Eden Nursing Home?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The facts as outlined by the honourable member are essentially correct. I became aware of that judgement myself just this morning. Unfortunately, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is away. I can tell the member that both ministries are looking at the legal and practical implications of that Court of Appeal judgement.

The member has asked me to make sure that no young people are returned to that facility now. I think it is fair to give that assurance pending the resolution of these legal problems. I do not know the answer to them, but I can assure the member they will have the very serious attention of this government.

Mr. McClellan: The Premier will understand there are still a number of children in homes for special care, such as the Ark Eden Nursing Home, who have not been rescued yet. The impact of this decision means he has no means to regulate the nursing home industry. I have the 1983 nursing home inspection report on the Ark Eden Nursing Home, which shows adult-sized patients in baby-sized cribs, no nursing stations, patients in restraints not positioned, nutritional problems, etc.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. McClellan: Will the Premier give us the commitment that when we come back in the second session of this parliament, he and his Minister of Health will have legislation before us which will give his Ministry of Health the power to regulate nursing homes in this province? As of now, he has nothing.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I remember very well the discussions in this House a year ago, or two or three years ago, with respect to Ark Eden and some of the limitations of the power of the government. In response to that, the minister launched a review of the entire policy. I cannot tell the member absolutely that the minister will have that legislation ready for the spring session, but I will remind him of the member's concern.

The member's concern about the patients is indeed the most serious concern, but the clients of Ark Eden will not be returned pending a resolution of these legal issues.

Mr. Grossman: I wonder whether the Premier will undertake to have his Minister of Health share with both opposition parties his intentions given the court decision, and his intention specifically with regard to what happens at Ark Eden? Is anyone going to be moved back? Who is going to go in? I ask the Premier simply to give us the assurance that we will be notified before any final decision is taken by the minister.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I just gave those assurances. Unless I am misunderstanding the honourable member's question, I think I just told the member that it is not our intention to move anyone back to Ark Eden. As I recall, he was the minister who closed Ark Eden, presumably in the absence of proper legal authority. Now we have to deal with those legal issues. However, the most important thing is that we protect those patients and anyone else from the kind of situation that existed in the past.

The member can be assured that the minister will do the right thing on behalf of those clients. At this point, that is the most important thing as we review the legal issues to determine our next line of offence; if that is a change of legislation, then that is what it will be.

APARTMENT CONVERSIONS

Mr. Shymko: I want to ask our yuppie Premier about what the third party describes as a yuppie issue, namely, his promise and concern for the destiny of the tenants of the Cadillac Fairview apartments. Is he prepared to support the majority of these tenants, who want to be masters of their own destiny for a change.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: As usual, the member for High Park-Swansea is completely inaccurate.

Mr. Ramsay: He is out to lunch.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Shymko: Is he prepared to support the majority of these tenants, who want to be masters of their own destiny and who want to choose the preferred form of affordable housing, namely, rental or co-op purchase or condominium conversion? Is this his policy, or does he prefer to pass the buck to the city council, which now forbids people, except for the rich, to buy their

homes while foreign speculators are given free rein to buy anything, anywhere and at any time in the housing market?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member is aware that under the legislation, the power is in the hands of Metro Toronto, which will deal with this issue on the advice of the city of Toronto. Surely he is not asking me to impose my will unilaterally, one way or another, on this situation. No good yuppie would do that kind of thing; a yummie might do it, but a yuppie would never do it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Could I have a supplementary yuppie question?

Mr. Shymko: That is exactly the promise he made in Tenant News in the spring of 1985; that is, he would fight for their rights.

I want to know whether the Premier is prepared to instruct the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to provide some assistance in his next budget to those tenants who want to buy their own units or to convert to co-op, since I understand affordable housing to him means helping people to afford owning their homes as well as renting their homes.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, the member knows that nobody on this side or that side of the House tells the Treasurer what to do. He does what he wants to do.

Second, the member is very well aware of our policy in this regard. A considerable allocation of $500 million has been set aside for a comprehensive housing policy that touches many aspects of home ownership as well as rental housing. We think it is balanced and fair and will make a significant impact.

This is the most comprehensive approach ever tried in this government–in this province. Excuse my slip of the tongue, but we inherited a mess and the member knows it. Even the member's colleagues are embarrassed about it.

CANADIAN CONTENT

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier about TVOntario. I am sure the Premier spends as many hours as I do watching various programs, such as Polka Dot Door.

In relation to the government's stated intentions with respect to cultural sovereignty and to job creation, is the Premier aware of the very limited amount of new programming on TVOntario? Is he also aware that of any 1,000 hours of new programming, less than half of that reflects Canadian content, Canadian production or Canadian jobs? Given the extent of hardware that has been invested by TVOntario, what does he intend to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The facts the honourable member lays out are essentially correct. We are very mindful of the problems with respect to the limited number of Canadian productions we have. As does the member, I spend time watching Polka Dot Door and other programs on TVOntario, and it does a pretty good job. I am mindful of the limitations it has on new production, and I am aware of its great potential.

That being the situation, we put an executive, Mr. Ostry, in there as chairman. He is considered a world authority on broadcasting, and he has a very strong handle on these problems. We are engaged in discussions with the federal government and the government of Quebec–I hope, at least in the future–with respect to French programming in Ontario. We are looking at it.

It is one of those situations that could use a great deal more money, but every other situation we have in this province could use a great deal more money. We hope to be fair in our allocation. We do think it is a fine cultural resource, but I cannot give a definite answer to the member at this time.

3:10 p.m.

PETITIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Pope: I wish to table a petition signed by 900 residents from across the province expressing their feelings about the so-called Health Care Accessibility Act.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Henderson: I wish to table a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Ontario has been well served by a strong public school system; and

"Whereas Ontario is a society working towards tolerance and acceptance of all people;

"Therefore, we feel the government is taking a backward step in extending public funding to Roman Catholic separate schools and in considering funding of other private schools. We are concerned that the proposal to extend funding to the Roman Catholic separate secondary schools and possible support of private schools will have a devastating effect on availability of programs, which will reduce educational opportunities available to all children.

"We therefore urge the government of Ontario not to proceed with the proposed extended funding to the Roman Catholic separate secondary schools or to any other private schools."

That petition is signed by E. A. Pauls, president of the St. George's Home and School Association, and by about 100 other members.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Ministry administration program, $7,822,800; industry program, $10,174,000; trade program, $18,104,800; Ontario Development Corporations program, $23,057,000; and innovation and technology program, $4,519,000.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Callahan from the standing committee on regulations and private bills reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986:

Ministry administration program, $2,333,400; tourism development program, $15,220,500; parks and attractions program, $18,278,600; recreation, sports and fitness program, $14,374,600; and tourism and recreation operations, $59,311,500.

MOTIONS

TRANSFERRAL OF REPORT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the annual report of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for the fiscal year ended April 30, 1985, be transferred from the standing committee on social development to the standing committee on general government.

Motion agreed to.

RELEASE OF REPORT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on the Ombudsman be authorized to release its report during the recess by depositing a copy with the Clerk of the assembly, and upon the commencement of the second session of this Parliament, the chairman of the committee shall bring any such report before the House in accordance with the standing orders.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

INSURANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Kwinter moved, seconded by Mr. Offer, first reading of Bill 108, An Act to to amend the Insurance Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am pleased to introduce for first reading the Insurance Amendment Act, which will provide the framework for Ontario's participation in a national compensation plan for general insurance.

Over the past five years, six general insurance companies have collapsed. All members will agree there is clearly a need for this compensation plan. This plan will protect the consumer and enhance confidence in the general insurance industry (1) by reducing the chance of insurance companies failing through the implementation of new standards such as increased capitalization levels and higher regulatory standards and (2) in the event of an insurance company's failure, by providing some compensation to victims.

This plan will be financed and run by the industry but directly connected to provincial regulations in the business of insurance.

For final implementation of the compensation plan, it will be necessary for the federal government to amend the Winding-up Act, and I am pressing it to do so.

I urge all members to support the amendments.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elston moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Caplan, first reading of Bill 109, An Act to amend the Health Disciplines Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: This piece of legislation is designed to deal with some problems that are being experienced now exclusively in the nursing profession. There is a request to increase the number of people they have available to hear matters of discipline. There is a backlog in that operation now. I hope we can have a quick resolution of this when we finally get to discuss this on second and third readings so the discipline proceedings before the Ontario College of Nurses can be dealt with in an expeditious fashion.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform you that I have tabled the answers to questions 194, 212, 218 and 219 standing on the Orders and Notices [see appendix page 4098].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Resuming consideration of the adjourned debate on Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

On section 14:

Mr. Chairman: Carrying on from last night, the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) had an amending motion to section 14.

Miss Stephenson has moved that section 14 be amended by deleting subsections 64(4), (5) and (6) of the act, as set out in section 14 of the bill, and replacing them with:

"(4) The actuary shall deliver to the Teachers' Superannuation Commission every valuation made under subsection 3 forthwith, after making the valuation.

"(5) The commissioner shall transmit to the Treasurer the valuation report which it determines is acceptable."

3:20 p.m.

Miss Stephenson: Members will recall that last night I said I was very concerned about what was being proposed in section 14, because this bill provides–for the very first time, it seems to me–the Treasurer with the full responsibility for the valuation process within–

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Are there any copies of the amendment? Critics are normally given copies of amendments.

Miss Stephenson: I am sorry. The amendment was made last night. I am sure the table will be glad to share it with the member. Unfortunately, I do not think he was here last night.

Mr. McClellan: I was here and there was no copy of the amendment.

Miss Stephenson: I am sorry. I did not notice at that point. I apologize.

Mr. Chairman: Does the Treasurer have a copy of the amendment?

Interjection.

Miss Stephenson: The act as it is currently written in actual fact provides the Treasurer of the province with the role of trustee of the teachers' superannuation fund. That has never been the plan, the organizational pattern or the purpose of the activities within the province.

The administration of that fund has always lain within the hands of the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, a commission which is now very well balanced because it is made up of five members nominated by the teaching professions, five members nominated by government, and there is a rotating chairmanship. That provides ample opportunity for balanced input into the administration of this program of superannuation for teachers.

At the moment, the actuary in his triennial review looks at what is determined as a result of that review and provides the information to the superannuation commission. They review it and determine whether they believe the actuary's assumptions are correct or not. When they have completed that review, if they determine they do not think they were correct, they discuss those assumptions with the actuary and may persuade him to modify some on the basis of that balanced input.

When the actuary has completed all of that and it has been accepted by the commission, it is then given to the Treasurer for his purposes, because his role, I would remind him, is to act on behalf of the government of Ontario and the people of Ontario to provide the employer's portion of that pension fund.

I do not know why the Treasurer believes that going the route of the act as it is currently written would not create for him a severe conflict of interest. He would be the trustee and the employer-contributor, and I do not believe that is a role that any legislator–certainly not any minister–would really wish to have. Therefore, I would ask that the Treasurer accept my modest amendment to ensure that the actuary reports to the commission, that the commission carries out its responsibilities as the group responsible under the act for the administration of that plan and then provide the information to the Treasurer for his action, as is necessary.

I would never ascribe to the current Treasurer any potential deviousness or suggest that he might be willing to do this in order to manipulate the plan for his own purposes, but that is one of the things that could happen. This Treasurer, monumental though he is in stature and character, will not be here for ever. There will be other Treasurers, and I would hope we would not provide that temptation for any succeeding Treasurer. It would be appropriate for the

Treasurer to accede to my request to amend this piece of legislation in the simple way I have suggested, to ensure that he does not have a conflict of interest, in order to ensure that the superannuation commission carries out its mandated responsibility and to ensure that, like Caesar's wife, everything is above suspicion in this circumstance.

Mr. Allen: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Would there perhaps be some sense in making my remarks and the Treasurer speaking to both of us?

Mr. Chairman: If the member wishes.

Mr. Allen: I think it might be more economical of our time. I do not want to prolong the discussion of this matter but I want to make one or two very brief remarks. I understand perfectly well what the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) is saying with respect to this process. It is a matter of some concern to some of the parties to the Teachers' Superannuation Commission and the processes that surround it.

At the same time, this is a significant debate between the Treasurer and the teachers of the province. Weighing the balance between what I understand to be our situation–given the pressure of time at the end of the session, whereby the failure to pass this bill will mean that teachers making career decisions between now and May will not be able to do so with any certainty with respect to the prospect of early retirement–and given the state of the discussion to date on this issue, in which the Treasurer has indicated he is not now prepared to move on the issue–given that we are between that immovable object and irrepressible force, so to speak–the better part of wisdom would be to vote against the amendment of the member for York Mills, support the bill and get it out there and active in the community.

None the less, will the Treasurer tell us how he understands the valuation process, his role in it and whether he can give us some substantial assurance the integrity of the fund and the role the superannuation commission has played in it as the principal determinant of the valuation process will be protected in the context of the proposal he has put before this House?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: With all the monumentality ascribed to me by the member for York Mills–

Miss Stephenson: The Treasurer looks like one of the four faces of granite on Mount Rushmore.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thought the member left herself slightly vulnerable but I am not going to pursue it.

With that monumentality, if such there is other than in size, I want to assure the member who has just spoken it is not my intention to interfere with the valuation process. The commission retains adequate and independent actuarial advisers who assist and prepare the valuation on a yearly basis. It has to be directed to the pension commission every three years, as prescribed by law.

I have never participated in this, of course, and I doubt the previous Minister of Education has, but I understand the membership of the teachers' superannuation board participates, not directly from the standpoint of teachers and that of Treasury, but section by section and valuation by valuation, they look at the ranges proposed by the actuary and agree, no doubt after some arguments, perhaps protracted ones, as to the appropriate valuation under those circumstances. That is directed to the Treasurer and once every three years it has to be directed to the pension commission under our statute.

I want to say, because I feel it is extremely important and speaks to the comment the member made about a conflict of interest and also to the comment made by the critic for the New Democratic Party having to do with the necessity to proceed with this important bill, I am very glad the critics of both opposition parties welcome the main principle of the bill; that is, providing a window of opportunity for early retirement. We all agree this is a good thing.

3:30 p.m.

I indicated the cost of this, by the time all of the payments are completed, will be close to $600 million. We discussed that when there was a proposal to change the size if not the shape of the window to which we were referring.

The member for York Mills is correct when she says that the Treasurer, under our requirement now, carries the total responsibility for the financing of the plan. Under the act, the Treasurer is responsible. Under the requirement, the Treasurer is the custodian of the fund. All of us are aware that the Treasurer borrows the assets of the fund, now in excess of $8 billion, through a regular process that was established by our predecessors and that has worked very well for a number of years.

This fund is now well in excess of $8 billion and it could be at the next valuation expected in March, over $9 billion. At the rate it is going, it is growing very rapidly. It is one of the most important investment funds, if one wants to look at it that way, in Ontario.

Members would know that in most instances the sponsor guarantees and underwrites the

provision of the promised pension benefits. Quite clearly that is the case here. Whatever the fluctuations of the economy in the future, as in the past, the government of Ontario–the people of Ontario, through the Treasurer–guarantees that the benefits will be paid. They are substantial benefits and proper benefits and we are improving those benefits with one of the provisions in this bill.

On the other hand, the Treasurer is accountable to all the taxpayers for this extremely large and important fund; important not only to the teachers but also to the participants, including all the taxpayers, who put in substantially more than half the contributions. Actuarial deficits in the past are made up on a regular basis and it is my projection and prediction that there will be such payments required in the future.

On that basis, the people who advise the Treasurer in this matter feel it is fiscally responsible not to do some kind of a number on the teachers, who are treated very well by this in their own fund, but that we should continue our guarantee. It is essential for fiscal responsibility that the Treasurer have this responsibility, in addition to setting the time when the valuation formally is made to the pension officials.

I feel very strongly about this. I can give personal assurances, which may or may not be adequate, that it is not my intention to tamper with the value of the fund. The guarantees continue; we are prepared to evaluate it properly under the Pension Benefits Act. I would ask the members of this House to reject the amendment from the opposition and support the section put forward by myself on behalf of the government in this connection.

I personally attribute a good deal of importance to it. In fact, without that section it would be difficult for me to proceed with the bill. It is not an idle threat. I feel it is important. The Ontario Teachers' Federation has contacted me directly by letter expressing its views in this regard, but I feel we ought to pursue the amendment that is put forward in the bill and I hope members will support it.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Miss Stephenson's amendment to section 14, will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 14 agreed to.

Sections 15 to 17, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of whole House reported one bill without amendment.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Conway, resolution 18.

Reading dispensed with [See Votes and Proceedings].

Motion agreed to.

STATUS OF BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Conway, resolution 19.

Reading dispensed with [See Votes and Proceedings].

Motion agreed to.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Conway, resolution 20:

That the 1985-86 estimates and supplementary estimates which have not yet been passed by the committees and reported to the House be deemed to be passed, and that all of the 1985-86 estimates and supplementary estimates which have not yet been concurred in be deemed to be concurred in.

Mr. Pope: My colleague and I are going to speak for 25 to 30 minutes.

I want to raise two points with respect to this motion. The first is to reiterate our concern with respect to the events occurring in the Ministry of Health over the past 10 months.

We have seen an unfortunate priority given to the passage of rather controversial pieces of legislation, without negotiation and consultation, that affect health care providers at the front line of the health care system of this province. I reiterate that it was without negotiation and consultation. That is clear from a variety of sources. That has been revealed in the estimates, in committees of this Legislature and in this House. It is clear the priority of the Ministry of Health has been a political one to the detriment of the health care system.

This Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and his ministry staff have been preoccupied with media wars with health care providers. For more than nine months they sat on the northern health transportation policy that was funded by the previous government. The money was provided in the budget of the then Ministry of Northern Affairs. It was $1. million to transport people who need medical attention from northern to

southern Ontario. They sat on it for nine months. The minister, in the estimates of the Ministry of Health, did not even know the money was there.

It is exactly the same situation with respect to the 24-hour air ambulance service across the province. He sat on it for nine months while he was hatching his media wars against the health care providers of this province.

He sat for 10 months in total on 4,500 nursing home beds in this province that are needed by the sick and the elderly. For what purpose? He now is going to reduce those 4,500 nursing home beds. He said it on December 11 in the estimates of the Ministry of Health in the standing committee on general government. He is going to reduce the number of beds. He is reviewing it and still has not made a decision.

Of those beds, 1,570 were to be allocated in the next 18 months. He is going to sit for 18 months and those beds are not going to come into place. They were not allocated on an ad hoc basis. They were allocated on the basis of work done by the district health councils and studies by the Ministry of Health.

3:40 p.m.

Three major essential health care programs that were high priorities of the previous government have been sat on for 10 months to the detriment of the people of this province and of northerners who need those services. What was the minister engaged in? Media wars with the doctors and the pharmacists of this province. His targets will continue. He will take on the dentists next when he brings in the denticare program. They will not be allowed to extra bill; they will be opted in. He will take on the nursing home operators; they are next as well.

He has every medical specialty in this province up in arms: the optometrists, the chiropractors and the medical specialists. They know this government has decided it is committed to state-controlled medicine on an ad hoc, profession-by-profession basis. Who will be the next target?

It will be state controlled. The Deputy Minister of Health knows everything. No one else knows anything. The government will pick off one profession after the other. The minister's intention is well known out there.

The government has written off one of the best health care systems in the world, a system founded on co-operation, negotiation and consultation, which recognized that the private sector and the individual professional had a role to play and tried to nurture individual professional responsibility and liability vis-à-vis health care being provided at the front line through day-to-day negotiation, discussion, caring and concern for individuals across this province.

The government is willing to throw that away. It is willing to accept the dictates of the third party and throw the best health care system in the world into complete and utter chaos. I do not think that is appropriate. As my leader said yesterday, there are other ways to do it. Negotiation with the medical association has been done in every single province in which there was an end to extra billing.

We saw the exchange of correspondence on January 21 between the Ontario Medical Association and the Premier (Mr. Peterson). Both letters were made public, both clearly stating and reiterating the Premier's position that he will proceed with Bill 94 and not negotiate.

The government took the same position on Bill 54 and Bill 55. There were no discussions with the pharmacists. I am not talking about the price-spread issue. I am talking about all the other things included in Bill 54 and Bill 55, such as interchangeability and the impact that can have on professional liability and the health of the people of this province.

When all was said and done, when it came out in the wash in the estimates of the Ministry of Health on November 27, the negotiations with the pharmacists had consisted of one hour before the bills were introduced to tell them what the government was going to do. Is that any way to deal with caring professionals who want to work with the government to improve the health care system of this province? It is not. It is the wrong way to go, believe me.

I can accept the government's political priorities and that it may want to implement those political priorities. That is the way it is. The government has an obligation to do that. However, it should not sacrifice the existing quality of the health care system by proceeding abruptly and without negotiation on these measures.

We fundamentally disagree with the whole process that has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health in these negotiations. It is not just isolated to Bill 94, Bill 54 and Bill 55. The physiotherapists have met with the minister once. They have not had a settlement of their fee negotiations. They have had two meetings with the negotiator since last spring and the government has yet to put on the table a negotiating position for 1986 fees. It has yet to negotiate meaningfully with the physiotherapists with respect to 1985 fee increases. That same story

about a lack of consultation, negotiation and communication runs the entire gamut of health care providers in this province.

With respect to Bill 94, Bill 54 and Bill 55, the government may feel it is on the right side of politics and can bluff its way through. However, what has been put in place is a modus of operation in the Ministry of Health of no consultation, no negotiation and no discussion. The deputy minister, the minister and the Premier's office know all and no one else can tell them what to do or make any suggestions.

That is the feeling in virtually every occupational group across this province. We did not go out to seek their opinions. They are writing to all the Liberal members. They are writing to us, talking about their complaints. They are going to ministers' offices. They are going to constituency offices and telling members exactly what they feel.

Oh, yes they are. Every constituency office in this province has been getting calls from physiotherapists, chiropractors, dentists, pharmacists, doctors and optometrists, voicing their complaints at their inability to talk to a government that said it would be open and accessible. The government said there would be no barriers or doors that would prevent anyone from coming in and having an impact on the decisions that were about to be made.

The Treasurer should ask any health care provider group in this province if it is satisfied with the communication and negotiation opportunities it has had with this new government. It is not a figment of anybody's imagination. It is mirrored in a petition signed by 900 people today and in public relations and media campaigns from different groups across the province. The message is the same in all of the campaigns and petitions. They say: "We cannot talk to this government. This government promised us that it would listen and be open to negotiation, and we cannot talk to it."

I just want to put on the record my concern with respect to what I see as damage to a high-quality health care system because of this attitude and approach. I urge the government to contemplate over the period of the break how it can repair those relationships, develop a new compromise and consensus among health care providers and recipients about improving the system on a co-operative basis. If it can do that, then I think it will find in this party and this Legislature widespread support for some of the improvements that I know it will want to bring to the health care system.

I have 10 minutes left of my time and then my colleague has five minutes.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am watching.

Mr. Pope: I know.

The second issue I want to talk about very briefly is the conduct of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and his ministry staff with respect to the Provincial Auditor's report. In their own ways, the Premier and the Minister of Natural Resources have been implying that I could not stand the release of the truth. They are implying this government is in favour of the truth getting out but somehow this party and this member are not. They are implying that somehow this member of the Legislature is afraid of the auditor's report.

I was a cabinet minister for six years. Every single year the auditor's report came out and every single year cabinet ministers had to account in this Legislature and in committees of the Legislature for their activities as revealed by the auditor's report. Every year some of us had to acknowledge that the auditor made some good recommendations that we should implement for the sake of good management practices in this province. I have been through it for six years. It was not new to have an auditor's report on my ministry made public or answer questions about the auditor's report or about the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Let us just read into the record exactly what happened in the fall of 1985 with respect to this report. It is found on P-1200-1 and P-1200-2 of Instant Hansard on January 30, 1986, in a question from myself to the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources,

"Mr. Pope: When did you submit your reply to the Provincial Auditor?

"Miss Mogford: September 13, 1985.

"Mr. Pope: Can you tell me why you waited from September 13 until the first part of November to release what was already available in the ministry?

"Miss Mogford: First, it had had to go back to the Provincial Auditor, who then had to review our response. I then had discussions with Mr. Archer with respect to this being available as a public document. I think this was in October 1985. Mr. Archer had no objections to that. He thought there would be very positive aspects to having the report released."

Then less than a minute later, do members want to know what the truth was? Let us read it into the record.

"Mr. Wildman: I have a supplementary for Mr. Archer. Is the process normal that once you

get a response from the ministry you have to review it? Then if the ministry wishes to make it public, it would have to discuss it with you prior to making it public?

"Mr. Archer: No, it is not the normal process, Mr. Wildman. Normally when we get the response from the ministry, that is the end of the episode until we either do another audit–

3:50 p.m.

"Mr. Wildman: I understand that, but if the ministry wishes to make it public, does it have to discuss it with you prior to making it public?

"Mr. Archer: No, they do not have to. I think it would be very prudent of them to do so in case there were some aspect in the response with which we totally disagreed. They might want to cover that off.

"However, this is such an unusual situation. It is the first time in my tenure with the office that a ministry has ever publicly made available a full report that we issued. Therefore, we did not have much precedent to go by. However, our position generally is that we issue the report to the ministry and it is free to do whatever it likes.

"Mr. Pope: I have a series of questions about this. Did any other ministry prerelease sections of the auditor's report of which you are aware?"

This was just in case you had a government-wide policy of no doors or barriers and a completely open system.

The Provincial Auditor's answer was: "No, as I said, this is the first time in my 15 years at the office."

So the Ministry of Energy, under that same minister, did not prelease the auditor's report. No other ministry in that government did. But the Ministry of Natural Resources did.

"Mr. Pope: Did you have any meetings with the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources subsequent to receipt of their response of September 13? What were the dates of those meetings?

"Mr. Archer: I personally did not have any meetings. I had several phone discussions with the deputy minister. My staff may have. Could I ask them to comment?

"Mr. McCarter: We had no meetings on the report. We had the draft going back and forth from the printers with a couple of typographical errors. However, that was the gist of it." He is from the Provincial Auditor's office.

From September 13 until the early part of November there were a couple of phone calls to correct typographical errors. However, the report was not released by the end of September or in the first part, middle or end of October. It was released in early November, the only ministry of the government to do that.

I just want to put one other thing on the record. I do not have to listen to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Premier of this province say that I am afraid of the truth getting out. When I was Minister of Natural Resources, we had 186 open houses where land use planning in this province went to the people and 10,000 people got an opportunity to talk about land use planning issues under that new consultation process I initiated as minister.

When I was the minister, I went to five regional forums in different parts of this province and listened to more than 5,000 citizens talk to me directly and debate with one another on land use planning. When I was Minister of Natural Resources, for the first time we had open houses for every single land use, land, and forest management agreement that was signed in my tenure, and had open houses on the 20-year and five-year plans.

When I was Minister of Natural Resources, I appeared for cross-examination by a battery of lawyers in front of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. When I was the Minister of Natural Resources, I made myself available to the media and members of this House to debate any issues they wanted to bring forward. I never hid from those debates. I met with interest groups, as this minister does, and talked about any issues they wanted to bring up.

After I was no longer a minister, I was willing to go before a committee of this Legislature and answer any questions its members wanted to pose about what had happened in the time I was Minister of Natural Resources and on the issues raised in the auditor's report. I did not have to do this, in spite of what the New Democratic Party said in its press release, but I wanted to because I had nothing to hide. I was prepared to answer questions from the Liberal Party members and the New Democratic Party members. They put it to me for two and one half hours and I tried my best to answer. I explained the rationale for the decision.

In the last six years, I have never hidden from public comment, public observation or any open discussions on policies of any ministry of which I was a part, or from the members of this Legislature in response to their questions, whether in estimates, question period or any other forum they wanted to select. The same was true with interest groups across this province.

Therefore, let the minister not tell me I am asking questions about the timing of the prere-

lease of this report, which he would not do for the Ministry of Energy, because I want to try to hide from the truth. It is a bunch of nonsense. I explained fully the reasons for the decisions I made.

He was aware of them, but he never called me to ask me any questions about this report. The Provincial Auditor never called me to ask me any questions. All in all, it was a sleazy performance; so the minister should not lie to the people of this province by saying that I am hiding from the truth. It was a sleazy performance by him and his ministry, whose motive was to interfere in another event. We all know that. The minister should not try to deny it. He should not lie to this House. It was a sleazy performance and he deserves better.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am not sure I heard correctly, but it seemed as if the member used language that is not acceptable in the House.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that. I was listening very carefully. He said, "Do not lie to this House." I hope I am correct.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I want to make it abundantly clear that I do not.

Mr. Stevenson: I am very sorry we do not have a bit of time to address some of the issues, particularly in agriculture, where the estimates were finished on December 4. Many major issues have developed since then and we have not had a forum in which to address them.

I want to mention very quickly the stabilization situation this year. The minister rushed into signing the stabilization agreement in order to get the glory at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture annual meeting. Now the payments to the farmers are dribbling out in dribs and drabs and there is a great deal of frustration in the agricultural community about the rate of payment.

Most of the cheques that are coming out now are for the pork stabilization; that is the easy one. Wait until they get to the beef. When one asks a lot of the local Ministry of Agriculture and Food people whether the farmers are having trouble filling them out, they just throw up their hands and tell the people to do the best they can.

There is a swine artificial insemination funding issue in front of the minister. Some statement was expected on that in the fall. As far as I am aware, at least up until a week or so ago nothing had been said.

We have a $64-million market for corn in the high fructose sugar area. It is certainly a market we can deal with politically and economically. It is right here in our province; it is not a market that is halfway around the world, and yet the minister has written a letter about it.

We have a land use policy that the minister put out last week, and after being supposedly the champion–

Mr. McGuigan: Who let the sugar beet industry die in Ontario? It was Bill Stewart.

Mr. Andrewes: Gene Whelan.

Mr. McGuigan: It was Bill Stewart.

Mr. Stevenson: Oh, come on. We are talking about something far more competitive. We are talking about high-fructose corn sugar.

Mr. McGuigan: We are talking about sugar.

Mr. Stevenson: The member should talk to his corn farmers and see what they have to say. He should go home and talk to them.

The minister talked about right-to-farm legislation. It is something that all three parties have made strong statements in favour of. He had an opportunity to bring out legislation along with his policy statement and he did not do it. I really wonder at the timing of those two statements and the priority of each of them.

I want to mention the stockyard situation very briefly. We have a situation at the Ontario Stock Yards where the minister has cancelled three meetings with the stockyard's board. Even Ross Beattie, who has been voting Liberal since before he was born, has been unable to arrange a meeting with the minister or the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon).

We have Kruger calling all the shots on the stockyards. For example, there is the rough brick floor there, which is very durable. It is there because it stands up well and is a relatively safe floor for the livestock to run on. Kruger walks in and says, "That floor has got to go because it is too rough." I guess he must have been getting a little bit of steer dust on his new office shoes or something. We have people out of the Premier's office apparently calling all the decisions on the public stockyards, and there is not one of them who knows to which end of the cow to carry the hay.

I would certainly request that the minister look into that issue and finally have a meeting with the Ontario Stock Yards board and let us get a little bit of stability into that.

4 p.m.

The last issue is the United States farm bill, which is probably the most threatening piece of

legislation ever to hit the agricultural industry here in Ontario.

I stated earlier that a number of organizations, including this party, have been working to try to determine the significance of this bill to Ontario agriculture for the past couple of months, but it is very difficult to go into something as lengthy as that to establish the real situation. Very clearly, from what I have been able to get out of Ottawa, the province does not have any plans to deal with the situation; and from what I can determine, I would say Ottawa has nothing in mind to deal with it either.

Here we have a situation where 75 per cent of the corn grown in Canada comes from Ontario and so far, from what I can determine, the minister has written one letter to try to do something about it.

The agricultural economy is seriously threatened, and there is some very real question of whether the corn growers of Ontario, or indeed the grain growers of the province, will have even a remote chance of getting their direct cash inputs into that crop back out in next year's harvest.

I am sorry I do not have any longer time to dwell on it, but I understand there is some sort of agreement; I will honour that agreement and sit down.

Mr. Treleaven: Mr. Speaker, since the House has not acknowledged any such time allocation, I intend to take a bit of time on a couple of subjects that are of concern to my riding.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Is the member talking to me or to his House leader?

Mr. Treleaven: I am talking to whomever wishes to listen. With regard to the Ministry of Health, the moments we have in which to speak now are replacing the concurrences that were to have taken place. I want to refer back to a news release of April 1985, when 615 nursing home beds were being allocated to western Ontario; in particular, 50 of those beds were allocated to Oxford county.

I draw the attention of the House to the last four lines of the news release of the then minister:

"The additional beds announced today include only extended care beds and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, not those in homes for the aged, which come under the Ministry of Community and Social Services."

What has happened over the past two years in attempting to get these 50 beds? The 50 beds were being lobbied for and discussed long before April 1985. In my riding, 25 beds were allocated to Woodingford Lodge, a home for the aged, which is, as the minister said, under the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act and under a different ministry. At that point, that home was attempting to obtain 40 extended care beds; 40 plus 50 is 90.

Since then we have reached the point where the ministries are saying the 25 that have been allocated are included in the 50. This is great reneging by the two ministries, sloughing back and forth.

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital has been attempting to deal with these 50 beds. They referred to the 25 being included in the 50. They do not use the word "reneging," I use that. Among other things, they talk about Tillsonburg hospital expending moneys in its role review with regard to these 50 nursing homes beds and they state how badly it is needed.

They go on to say that Oxford has two unique problems. Of the nursing home beds in Oxford county, 41 per cent are situated in Tavistock, a village of 2,000 on the northern edge of Oxford, which leaves 59 per cent of the beds for the rest of the county, all attributed to Oxford.

The majority of the beds in Tavistock, which account for 41 per cent of those in the county, are being used by patients from Perth county–you will be familiar with that, Mr. Speaker–Waterloo, Kitchener-Wilmot–which is the riding of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney)–and Huron county. People from far and wide are in these three large nursing homes in Tavistock; however, these unbalance the county and are being put in the Oxford county quota, if I may call it that.

I also point out that in Tillsonburg, for example, which is on the southern boundary of my riding, seniors account for more than 20 per cent of its population, well above double the provincial average. This shows, slightly, some of the pressures.

I ask the minister to take note that Oxford should not be harmed by the use of its quota by those residents of Perth, Huron and Kitchener-Wilmot, although they are welcome to come to Oxford. Perhaps that is enough on that subject.

[Applause]

Mr. Treleaven: Good. Members will encourage me to go on a little longer with that kind of applause.

That situation has been lasting for only two years. I want to refer to one that is four and a half years old. It is a project that began in 1981 for the mentally alert/physically disabled young, a group of mainly multiple sclerosis patients in Oxford. It was anticipated that some kind of separate building would be created for them

where they could be with others of their own kind, mentally very bright, and be intellectually stimulated even though they are deteriorating physically.

This project was started. The federal member for Oxford obtained a grant in the International Year of the Disabled. A committee used an office in my building to put together a study. That was all done nearly four years ago. It went to the Thames Valley District Health Council, which for reasons of its own decided that another, more extensive type of study was required. There are inches and pounds of correspondence on this; about the study, the money and the bureaucracy bouncing it back and forth. A tennis game is the best way to describe it.

We received a letter recently from Parkwood Hospital in London. One of the people from Oxford attempted to get her husband into that hospital. That hospital stated it will not take patients from outside the county of Middlesex; it will not take them from Oxford. After four and a half years, the discrimination is a little much. This has gone far enough. It also states it is now disagreeing with the methodology. This is the same as with the other nursing home beds where the ministry is disagreeing with the methodology of the study of its own health council.

With the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health bouncing the mentally alert/physically disabled young back and forth, we now have another quote from the deputy minister: "Because the definition, study purpose, objectives and methodology have been revised, we are presently examining them."

I do not wish to take much longer. I will be speaking at length in the future, either in the House or personally. I am not speaking to many people in this House; I am speaking to the people of Oxford. It will not be dropped, and it will be debated in this House at length in the future if something does not get finished.

Motion agreed to.

4:10 p.m.

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, before moving government notice of motion 21, I want to bring to your attention a minor amendment. It is a lengthy motion, and in the section that refers to standing committee on general government, I would like to add the words "The committee shall have authority to adjourn from place to place in Ontario."

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Mr. Conway, government notice of motion 21, that the following committees be continued and authorized to sit during the recess between the first and second sessions of the 33rd Parliament in accordance with the schedule of meeting dates agreed to by the three party whips and tabled with the Clerk of the assembly, with power to send for persons, papers and things as provided in section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act, and with power to examine and inquire into the following matters:

Select committee on economic affairs: To consider the implications to Ontario of bilateral trade.

Select committee on energy: To consider matters relating to the supply and demand of electricity.

Standing committee on administration of justice: To consider Bill 7, An Act to amend certain Ontario Statutes to conform to section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Standing committee on general government: To consider Bill 75, An Act to amend the Education Act, and the annual report of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for the fiscal year ended April 30, 1985. The committee shall have authority to adjourn from place to place in Ontario.

Standing committee on members' services: To consider the provision of simultaneous translation services to the House and its committees.

Standing committee on the Ombudsman: To consider the annual report of the Ombudsman of Ontario for the year ended March 31, 1985.

Standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions: To consider Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy, and appointments in the public sector. The committee shall have authority to adjourn from place to place in North America.

Standing committee on public accounts: To consider the annual reports of the Provincial Auditor for the fiscal years ended March 31, 1984, and March 31, 1985, and the annual report of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

Standing committee on resources development: To consider Bill 65, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act. The committee shall have authority to adjourn from place to place in Ontario.

Standing committee on social development: To consider Bill 30, An Act to amend the Education Act; Bill 54, An Act to Authorize and Regulate the Payment by the Minister to Specified Persons on Behalf of Specified Classes to

Persons for the Dispensing of Specified Drugs; Bill 55, An Act to provide for the Protection of the Public in respect of the Cost of Certain Prescription Drugs; and Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act. The committee shall have authority to adjourn from place to place in Ontario.

Committees may consider any other matters referred to them prior to prorogation.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have a minor amendment to government notice of motion 22 with reference to the standing committee on the Ombudsman. Mr. Pierce is to be replaced by Mr. McLean.

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Mr. Conway, government notice of motion 22, that the membership on the standing and select committees for the recess between the first and second sessions of the 33rd Parliament be as follows:

Select committee on economic affairs: Messrs. Andrewes, Barlow, D. R. Cooke, Cordiano, Ferraro, Hennessy, Knight, Mackenzie, McFadden, Morin-Strom and D. W. Smith.

Select committee on energy: Messrs. Andrewes, Ashe, Charlton, Cureatz, Gordon, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Haggerty, Jackson, McGuigan, Polsinelli and Sargent.

Standing committee on administration of justice: Messrs. Brandt, Callahan, D. R. Cooke, Ms. Fish, Ms. Gigantes, Messrs. O'Connor, Partington, Polsinelli, Sargent, Villeneuve and Warner.

Standing committee on general government: Messrs. Dean, Guindon, Henderson, Hennessy, Knight, McCague, McKessock, Poirier, Pouliot, Swart and Wiseman.

Standing committee on members' services: Messrs. Grande, Gregory, J. M. Johnson, Lane, Laughren, McKessock, Poirier, Rowe and Ms. E. J. Smith.

Standing committee on the Ombudsman: Messrs. Baetz, Bossy, Hayes, Henderson, McLean, McNeil, Morin, Newman, Philip, Sheppard and Shymko.

Standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions: Messrs. Bossy, Breaugh, Mancini, Martel, McCaffrey, Morin, Newman, Sterling, Treleaven, Turner and Warner.

Standing committee on public accounts: Messrs. Ashe, Cordiano, Epp, Ferraro, Gillies, Harris, Leluk, Philip, Runciman, D. W. Smith and Wildman.

Standing committee on resources development: Messrs. Callahan, Gordon, Laughren, Mackenzie, McGuigan, Pierce, Ramsay, Ms. E. J. Smith, Messrs. South, Stevenson and Taylor.

Standing committee on social development: Messrs. Bernier, D. S. Cooke, Davis, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, G. I. Miller, Offer, Reycraft, Miss Stephenson, Messrs. Swart and Ward.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Mr. Conway, government notice of motion 23, that substitution be permitted on the standing and select committees authorized to meet during the recess between the first and second sessions provided that written notice of substitutions is given to the clerk of the committee before the committee meets or in the first 30 minutes after the committee meeting is called to order.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Grandmaître moved second reading of Bill 107, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have a brief comment. The bill is being put in place to expedite arrangements between counties and municipalities to enter into a spray program with the ministry.

Mrs. Grier: We support this motion and this bill. We appreciate the fact that the statement by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) when he introduced the bill makes it very clear that the funding will apply only when the private lands in question have been sprayed with bacillus thurengiensis, a biological insecticide spray. We consider this a progressive step on the part of the minister and we look forward to continuing to use only that kind of spray in all spraying exercises in this province.

Mr. Timbrell: I want to add the support of our party to this legislation and to recognize that what the minister is proposing to do is only one part, but a necessary part, of the overall assault on the problem.

The statement the minister made earlier today with respect to the government's own spraying program was well received on this side of the House and–

Mr. Brandt: Plagiarized.

Mr. Timbrell: Plagiarized to a great extent, as the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) said. It is

basically the reaffirmed policy of the previous government, but that is fine. We hope that the open houses, which are either just completed or about to be completed, will lead to the conclusion that what the government announced to be the policy for 1986 will be the policy for all time. We will look forward to hearing that announcement at some later date.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 3, An Act respecting Actions arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions;

Bill 16, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act;

Bill 76, An act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Bill 107, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved third reading of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Miss Stephenson: I will take this opportunity to remind the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) briefly that he is embarking on a parlous course in the action he is taking related to the teachers' superannuation fund. I hope he will consider very seriously the content of the very minor amendment I suggested. I hope he will recognize that he has the potential of being in serious conflict of interest as the provider of the funds in assuming the role of trustee of the funds and that of evaluator.

It is of major concern to all of us that the Treasurer not get himself into that position, that he look very carefully at what he is doing and that he consider seriously having discussions in the very near future with those who are interested, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission plus the teaching profession in Ontario, to discuss a more appropriate route to deal with this matter.

He has given us his assurance that he does not intend to manipulate, and I will accept that at face value. However, if I were a letter writer to the Globe and Mail, I would be shocked and appalled by the fact that the Treasurer is even suggesting he should go in this direction at present. I should think he would want his purity to remain as virginal as it appears to be at present.

Mr. Andrewes: Not this Treasurer.

Miss Stephenson: I keep hoping it might be.

None the less, it is my grave concern that the Treasurer is embarking upon a very improper course, one that could be considered perhaps legal but certainly not what I would propose is entirely moral. Although he has that responsibility under the Pension Benefits Act, he has to remember that under that act, the employer is specified. Under the Teachers' Superannuation Act, the employer is not specified; it is the people of Ontario who provide the employer's portion of that fund, and he acts for the people of Ontario. That dual role is going to provide him with problems, and I hope the Treasurer will seriously consider looking at not modifying the action, as he is suggesting in this act.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I simply want to assure the House that I take the admonitions from the honourable member very seriously. She indicates she is shocked and appalled. I am glad she has not gotten to the high dudgeon stage, which is even more formidable.

However, she makes a point that has to be carefully considered. I have already indicated to the House that the Ontario Teachers' Federation has expressed its views to me. I can also indicate to the member that I consider myself to be taking a stand that is fiscally responsible and in the best interests of the people of Ontario. I know I will be subject to any criticism if any is due, and maybe if it is not.

Motion agreed to.

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Before calling for the resumption, and I hope the conclusion, of the debate on the budget, and while the leader of the New Democratic Party finishes his third chocolate bar, I would like to inform the House that after some discussion it has been agreed in a rather loose agreement that the speeches be limited to 20 minutes, if possible. I ask the clerks at the table to use the technological apparatus available to indicate the elapsed time.

Mr. McClellan: It is called a clock.

Mr. Breaugh: It is called a clock.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, it is not.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is a clock, but it is a weird clock.

For the convenience of the members on all sides, the representatives of the three parties have agreed to attempt to limit themselves to this restricted time. At the end of that, if there is occasion for a vote, we hope to limit the bell-ringing to 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: It has been suggested by the government House leader that the speeches be limited to 20 minutes for each party. Is that agreeable to the House?

Agreed to.

BUDGET DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that his House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York South.

[Applause]

Mr. Rae: I was wondering when the minister would finally get a chance to express his gratitude.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Better before than after.

Mr. Rae: I realize it has taken a long time, but I appreciate it.

I want to take this opportunity to review the events of the past few months, particularly as they relate to the budget and to the accord the leader of the Liberal Party and I signed on May 28, 1985, the accord that led to the defeat of the Conservative government in June and which I am proud to say has led to an enormously progressive agenda for the province.

As I said yesterday, I know Liberal ministers are under strict instructions from central casting never to mention the word "accord," the name of the New Democratic Party, the names of our front-benchers or any other spokesmen for our issues. I know that message has gone out and I can appreciate why that is so. It is not always that the actors in a play spend much time talking about those who wrote the script.

I take pride in what took place after the election of May 2. I can recall conversations that took place the day after the election. I can reflect on all the events that took place in May. I will have a lot more to write and say about it in the future, since I took very careful notes of all the discussions we had during that time–

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Look at the Tories turn white.

Mr. Rae: –including all the items that were on the agenda that the Tories were desperate to sign with us but suddenly withdrew.

Mr. Andrewes: Not as desperate as the Liberals were.

Mr. Rae: No; the degree of desperation was greater, the degree of willingness on our part was not greater.

Two political parties decided to make history in Ontario. I remain proud of the fact we did make history in the province. We put to an end 42 years of tired government. We put to an end a dynasty that was there too long and was too tired.

When I came here in 1982, I said to the members of the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party and my own party: "Is it always like this in this place? Do we always spend time debating what the provincial bird or the provincial song should be when there are millions of unemployed out there?" Members may recall me asking that. We had serious debates in the House under the direction of the Tories. Their agenda was what the provincial tree should be.

Those days are over. We spent a year wondering whether Bill Davis was going to run for the federal leadership, so nothing could happen. Then we spent another year waiting to see when he was going to call an election or whether he was going to retire. Then when he retired we had to wait for the Tories to decide who their new leader was going to be. A book was recently written about the last years of the Tory government. Its title is, quite simply, Nothing Happened.

We have had a very crowded agenda. I take pride in the role my colleagues and I have played in helping to set that agenda. Since we are not going to hear any words of congratulation coming from the government with respect to this, I think it is time for us to take the initiative and make it very clear that we are proud of the role we have played. We will continue to play a positive, effective, tough, critical role in this Legislature. We are proud of the role we are playing and what we have been able to achieve.

Let us look at what has been achieved. We have made a move with respect to freedom of information. I am delighted that finally, after having been the first bill to be called, it is going to be the subject of committee scrutiny during the break.

We have begun to reform the House. We have begun the changes we negotiated. We have begun the process of redefining and broadening the rights of public servants. These are not momentous changes done in one fell swoop, but at least we have begun the process of making those changes.

There were substantive items we negotiated with the Liberal Party. Let us see precisely what progress we have made with respect to the accord. "To begin implementation of separate school funding." That has been done. We know what that situation is.

"To introduce programs to create employment training for young people." We have some disagreements about the program. I see the minister is here. We will continue to have disagreements, but the program is there.

"To ban extra billing by medical doctors." The House took the historic step yesterday of passing in principle our approval for an end to extra billing by medical doctors.

"The proclamation of the sections of the Environmental Protection Act dealing with spills." The Tories sat on their collective fannies for six years and did nothing. It took a polychlorinated biphenyls spill in the middle of the election to awaken the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) to the fact that there was a problem with respect to the environment. There are some Tories who have still not accepted that reality.

Imagine the leader of the Tory party going down to Sarnia and saying: "Clean water? That is a yuppie issue." Those are words that will stick with the leader of the Tory party for a very long time indeed. Let him go down to Windsor and say, "Worrying about your water supply is a yuppie issue." Let him come to Toronto, Etobicoke or York, all over this great province of ours, and say that caring about the safety of the water supply is a yuppie issue. Like hell it is a yuppie issue. It is a people issue that unites every single person in this province. If the leader of the Tory party wants to mock those who think the safety of our water is an issue, that is his problem. Those words will be wrapped around his neck and nobody else's.

We are moving with respect to tenant protection laws, the four per cent guideline, the rent registry, the extension of rent review to cover post-1976 buildings and an end to the $750-a-month exemption. We are not making as many moves as we would like as quickly as we would like, but we are beginning to make those moves for the first time.

We have a first-contract law in labour legislation. In the last days of Pompeii, as the volcanic ashes were beginning to pour on this place, the Tories in their deathbed repentance presented a 96-page speech from the throne read by John Aird, written by the member for Muskoka, saying: "Oh, God, please let us hang in there. We will do whatever the hell you want."

4:30 p.m.

One of those things was first-contract legislation. We had a bill. It is one we are going to try to amend. I have some very good amendments for the minister. I know he is going to be interested in listening to them and will give them the scrutiny, the respectful hearing and indeed the approval we think they deserve.

Where was the Tory party when the actual bill was there to be passed? When it was here to be approved in principle, when they had a piece of legislation in front of them, the dinosaurs took over. The Neanderthals came back. It was the return of that tired generation that said, "Let the workers stand out on a picket line for six or eight months; it is good for their health." They voted against that legislation. The men and the women of this province, and it is women who are affected by this dispute more than anyone else, are going to remember where the Tories of this province stood on first-contract legislation. That is going to be wrapped around their necks for the next generation.

Under the very effective drive of my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), of whom it can fairly be said that he has become the conscience of this Legislature with respect to occupational health and safety, we are finally beginning to get the kinds of reforms which are necessary to protect the people who have been so long left unprotected by government and the law.

After a bit of a fight, which I am proud to say we led, we have continued the prebudget freeze on the ad valorem gasoline tax. It took a bit of work. It took the provincial Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) agreeing it was possible for a Treasurer to make a mistake, but we did it.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I did that before the third party started–

Mr. Rae: That in itself makes the Treasurer almost unique in the history of this province. With respect to the accord, one of the things it showed is that we can cause a change in the budgetary policy of the government of this province without causing a defeat of the government. That is a good thing. It is positive and a good sign. It is a method of reform which we are going to continue to use.

After 42 years of hearings, roughly 600 briefs submitted and a mountain of documents, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment has finally been wound up and has reported.

We have provided coverage for medically necessary travel under the Ontario health insurance plan for residents of northern Ontario. I remain as proud of that achievement as of anything.

I think of the work of my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), the trip I took right across the north in conjunction with all my colleagues from northern Ontario, the meet-

ings I had in Dubreuilville, Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa, Marathon, Red Rock, Timiskaming and New Liskeard, and the effort and work we put into that issue. As a New Democrat, I am proud that we finally have a program which allows people in the north to get the same kind of coverage as people elsewhere.

We have moved with respect to housing and the establishment of co-op and nonprofit housing units. The drought in the housing field has come to an end; the lean years have finally stopped. We have made some progress.

We have moved with respect to a number of other areas. There are things that have not been done and things yet to do. We have to move on pension reform. I say to the Treasurer, we in this party will not be satisfied until we have protected those pension funds, fully provided for indexation for people who have private pensions, and most important, as has been stressed by my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) in his brilliant article in the Toronto Star, we will not be satisfied until we have full coverage for all the citizens of the province and not just the 50 per cent who now have private pension plans. We are going to continue to fight on that.

We have fought the battle on overtime. The leader of the Tory party said we are throwing lobs. I never heard him ask a question on overtime. Where was the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) when it came to standing up against Conrad Black? I never heard the leader of the Tory party say a poop, a pip or a peep about Conrad Black and Dominion Stores. He never said a word about overtime. Name a Tory who has asked a question on occupational health and safety or tough questions on the layoffs.

The lob balls have been coming over from that party, which has still not accepted the fact it is in opposition and is not the government. The people of Ontario are not about to vote for a return of the Romanovs after 1917. They do not want those people back in power and they are not going to get back into power. The Tories in opposition look about as comfortable as King Farouk in a laundromat. The Tories–

Mr. Andrewes: Why would King Farouk go into a laundromat?

Mr. Rae: The member asks why King Farouk would go into a laundromat. After he lost power, somebody had to do the washing up. Now the Tories are discovering that and they do not like it, so they have several different approaches and several different lines. One is to say, "We are the only real opposition." I want to say they are the only representatives with respect to opposition who are speaking for the vested interests. If one takes the nursing home owners, the doctors who want to extra bill, the polluters who do not want to clean up, those pharmacists who want to charge extra, and puts them all together, that is the coalition the Tories expect to lead them over the hills.

That is the group of people who are going to lead the Tories farther away from power and farther away from the affections of the people of Ontario, because the people are tired of those vested interests having a monopoly on government. They are tired of those vested interests having a pipeline to power. They are tired of those vested interests having exclusive rights over the laws of Ontario. If that is the kind of coalition the Tories want to lead, they can have it. That is not the real opposition; that is the past and this is the future.

It is to the future I want to turn because I want to say to the government, as we adjourn and as we prepare for a session which will be coming in April, as proud as we are of what has been accomplished, there is so much more to do. We are in the middle of a life change in the economy of this province. We are in the middle of greater technological changes than we have ever seen before.

Today, in my constituency, the largest industrial employer has just announced a reduction in employment as part of a worldwide scheme. I say to members that this is common throughout all larger industries in the province. Look at what is happening in every major company. What has been the experience of Inco? What has been the experience of Stelco? What has the experience been in every large manufacturer? It has been similar. It has been that since the recession there has been the steady cutback of employment.

We continue to face an incredible degree of discrimination against the handicapped. We continue to face incredible discrimination against many visible minorities in this province. We continue to face enormous problems with respect to inequalities between men and women. We confront these changes and these inequalities with a set of institutions which still have not really been reformed, with a pension law that is still more than 40 years old, with a series of laws with respect to employment standards and work time which have not even been looked at since the 1940s.

It is the courage to face those reforms with respect to the world of work that is essential. We

discussed health care yesterday and I outlined for the House, as best I could, my own sense that there is an agenda for real reform in the health care system which is crying out to be accomplished. It is not going to be easy to get the people of the province to look to new ways of delivering health care. It is not going to be easy for all of Ontario to recognize that we face tremendous problems in the work place, tremendous problems of occupational health and safety which are posing enormous problems for the health care system, and that we are facing an epidemic of cancer as I described it yesterday. We are facing the ageing of the population, resulting in a tremendous problem for our health care system and for our hospitals. It is going to take enormous courage to face up to those.

As the father of three young children under four and a half years old, I think day care is one issue about which I can say I have some personal sense of how it touches families. One cannot have a strategy for equality that is serious unless we have a policy on child care. As Judge Abella has stated in her report on employment equity, we cannot have a serious strategy for equality unless we have a policy on child care and we still do not have a province-wide policy on child care worthy of the name. Unless those problems are addressed, equality will remain a mirage for hundreds of thousands, indeed millions, of women in this province.

4:40 p.m.

We have an environmental agenda, as my colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) has pointed out so eloquently, as has my colleague the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), who has newly arrived. As I would say about all my colleagues who were elected in May, I am proud of the work my newly elected colleague from Lakeshore has done on environmental issues in this House. She has been a goad, a conscience and a critic of whom we can all be proud in respect to the work she has done. She has pointed out as effectively as anybody that it is cheaper to pollute in Ontario today than it is to clean up. She has pointed out that Dow Chemical is dumping just as much crap into the water around Sarnia today as it was a year ago. Nothing has changed in that regard.

Yes, we have made progress, but there is still the same amount of stuff being dumped. It is nearly two tons a week. People say, "You must not use those words," but when one sees that chemical junk going into the water, one has to call it what it is. It is stuff that has to be cleaned up. Just as much of it is flowing today as was flowing before.

When we look at this change, this life change in the economy of our province, as we move into what the experts call the post-industrial society, I see workers in my riding who are 50 or 55 years old and cannot get jobs. They are facing enormous barriers to employment and opportunity. I see the whole need for a pension reform that will get the retirement age down to 60 or even 55 years of age for people in heavy construction work. Why should we not give those people a chance to enjoy their retirement?

Auto insurance is the other issue my colleague from Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) will be raising this spring. We have a large agenda to accomplish. However, what we did after the election in May was a breath of fresh air. I am proud of it. I am delighted with the progress we have made and I am looking forward to the day when New Democrats will form the government of Ontario.

Mr. Andrewes: I rise with some trepidation to interrupt the apparent love-in. However, I want to say to the member for York South (Mr. Rae) that, in spite of his cynicism, we are proud to be the official opposition. We are proud to be the only opposition and while we are here we will hold a point of view. We may not agree on that point of view, but we will not abdicate the parliamentary process to take up the member's point of view.

In the remarks of the leader of the third party, he studiously avoided making any comments on the budget. Was he ashamed of the budget? Was he surprised at it? Could he compliment the government on it? He could not say anything about the budget because it was that very issue that brought this coalition to fruition.

His colleague from Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) mocked our arguments on reduced oil prices and lower gasoline prices. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) today admits we are going to have lower gasoline prices. However, the people of this province are continuing to pay a gasoline tax, in spite of the protestations of this party, because of the aid and support of the NDP.

I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate. I will direct my comments to the 1985 budget because I think it is appropriate to do that at this time. I want to summarize some of my party's concerns about the economic and fiscal policies the budget sets out.

The same thought has no doubt occurred to a number of other members of this House as well. It has been a long time since a member of the

Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario has been called upon to deliver a wrapup of the official opposition in a budget debate.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Get used to it.

Mr. Andrewes: I want to say to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot we have no intention of making this an annual event. Probably one or two budget wrapups from the Conservative party would be sufficient because I am not sure this province can stand more than one or two Liberal budgets.

The opposition wrapup is somewhat of a unique experience for me. However, I have on many occasions in the past enjoyed, though seldom agreed with, remarks made in the budget wrapup by opposition leaders and other members in this House.

In spite of the temptations–and I may try to resist them–I recall the silver-tongued rhetoric of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), who stood in his place on this side of the House and chastised certain employees in the then Premier's office for practically an hour in the budget wrapup; he chastised the integrity of Dr. Stewart, Hugh Segal and other members of the Premier's staff. I am tempted, but I will resist making comments about John Kruger or Hershell Ezrin.

I recall the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), who rose in this House to wrap up a budget debate and lectured the members on the government benches about the cars they used for transportation; he called them limousines. However, I fail to see that the new government and its ministers have altered that pattern. I have not yet found a date advertised for the auction sale that is to be conducted at Varsity Arena. I see those same vehicles being replaced. The very modest vehicle purchased by myself as Minister of Energy is now relegated to the government garage for use by some parliamentary assistant.

I recall on occasions in this House being chastised by the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) about the self-indulgence of certain cabinet ministers who put their names on government advertising.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The jet.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order.

Mr. Andrewes: I recall the chastisement that was delivered to us. Yet as I walk home in the evening, because that is the only means I have of getting home, I look up on the billboard and there I see, "Futures, Brought to You by Greg Sorbara," and, "Insulate Your Home and Save a Lot of Money, Brought to You by Vince Kerrio."

If I were to invoke the word "hypocrisy" in this debate, I do not think it would be appropriate, but perhaps we should relive a little bit of history and re-read some of the Hansard reports on the debates and estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and read through some of the comments made by the present minister about a publication called OMAF News. Oh, my, was he degrading of the minister of the day for that publication. Yet when I now get my three copies–one at home, one in my constituency office and one in my office in Toronto–there on the front page is the smiling face of the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell).

He came down so hard on both sides of that issue that it is a wonder his voice did not change. Perhaps we can indulge him that privilege since he cannot watch himself on television.

There seems to be something about the budget wrapup that inspires members to new heights of rhetoric. We saw that demonstrated by the member for York South.

Mr. McClellan: We are waiting.

Mr. Andrewes: Do not be silly.

Mr. Foulds: Farouk is flat.

Mr. Andrewes: I did not like the story about Farouk.

4:50 p.m.

Even the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) has achieved new eloquence on occasion on these budget wrapups. For instance, the Liberal Party leader used the occasion in the last budget wrapup debate in this House, which occurred some 14 months ago to this very day, to reflect on the nature and purpose of politics. He said:

"There is gamesmanship to politics...However, there is the other element of dreams, hopes and aspirations. I believe profoundly that it is our responsibility to speak and plan for the future. There is no other institution in society, except perhaps the church, that has the responsibility of preparing us now for the next decade or the next generation."

I very much doubt that any member of this chamber could quarrel with that statement. Yet if we examine this budget–and that is the purpose of this debate–in the context of that statement, we can only conclude that the government has failed to discharge what the Premier has said is its most serious responsibility, namely, to prepare this province for the next decade and the next generation.

I want to stress to members in the government benches, particularly to the Treasurer, that we

are not here to play games. What we want to impress on the Treasurer and on his colleagues is that we in this party are very concerned that the measures introduced in this budget will undermine and compromise our ability to achieve the socially stable and economically prosperous future which all of us in this House want to help build for Ontario.

We are concerned that this budget will not and cannot achieve its stated objective of ensuring steady improvement in the long-term performance of the Ontario economy. We are concerned because this is a budget that lacks vision, a budget that lacks imagination. We are concerned because the budget fails to encourage productive business investment and fails to encourage consumer spending, the two major sources of economic and employment growth in our economy.

We are concerned because this budget does nothing to facilitate and expedite technological diffusion and upgrading, a challenge we must meet if we are to compete effectively in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing international system.

We are concerned that the long-term consequences of the budgetary policies of this government will be reduced economic growth, a loss of employment opportunities and the erosion of the province's financial stability, with a consequent diminishing of our fiscal flexibility to provide the so-needed social network which is so important if we are to plan properly for the next decade and for future generations.

Mr. Haggerty: What is your view on free trade?

Mr. Andrewes: I might ask the member for Erie what his view is on free trade.

A number of members have noted during the budget debate that the 1985 Ontario budget is the first budget tabled by a Liberal government in 42 years. I suppose one might cynically say if they had had 42 years to think about it, they might have done a better job.

I can only speculate about what the Honourable St. Clair Gordon–the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) would recognize that name because I know of his interest as a historian–the last Liberal Treasurer to table a budget in this province on March 19, 1943, might think of the budget tabled by his successor the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. In his 1943 budget, the Liberal Treasurer called attention to the efforts his government had made to establish the excellent financial position which Ontario enjoys today.

The 1985 Liberal budget, by comparison, has resulted in a downgrading of the province's triple-A rating and severely circumscribed the fiscal flexibility this province has always enjoyed.

The Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine), and whatever else he is, may laugh, but in the operation of his business, fiscal responsibility becomes critical.

St. Clair Gordon said, "Given the tremendous increase in employment and the vast sums of money available, the province has adhered to the policy of no new taxation." I draw the attention of the Treasurer to that comment, because in 1985 his budget told us the province was in the midst of a strong and sustained economic recovery and was poised to enjoy its fourth successive year of economic and employment growth. He said employment levels and job creation rates were at a near-historic high and the tax base was in generally sound condition.

Unlike his predecessor, St. Clair Gordon, the current Treasurer has not followed a policy of no new taxation but has instead increased just about every tax and every licence fee that was available to him. He says "except one," but he will find that one the next time.

In his 1943 budget, the Liberal Treasurer stressed the need to maintain a sound financial position in the province. St. Clair Gordon said something that is perhaps one of the few examples of common sense in economic policy demonstrated by a Liberal cabinet minister in Canada's recorded history.

He said, "After all, it is good business, is it not, to pay your debts in good times so that in bad or depressed times you have good credit." This was in 1943.

I can only assume that our friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk did not read his predecessor's budget statement. He did not accept the wisdom of his predecessor; nor could he possibly have accepted the good, sound wisdom and advice he received from the boys in the back rooms at Earl's Shell Service in St. George, where the price is soon to fall.

Apparently, the Treasurer does not agree with St. Clair Gordon's view that it is good business to pay one's debts in good times, because if he did, he would not have increased the province's net cash requirements by some 30 per cent during a period of economic growth. I ask, as no doubt many Ontario taxpayers are asking, where is St. Clair Gordon when you really need him? Wherever St. Clair Gordon is, if he has had an

opportunity to peruse the 1985 Liberal budget, he must be shaking his head in disbelief.

I realize the limitations placed on this debate by the agreement. Unlike my colleague from Woodstock Centre or wherever he is from, I will not violate that agreement. However, I will draw our portion of this debate to some conclusion by saying we are concerned that this budget presents no blueprint or, to use a term so often enjoyed by the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), red print for the economic future of this province. The budget does nothing constructive in the two sectors that members of all parties recognize as vital for the future prosperity of this province, the areas of technological upgrading and trade.

5 p.m.

On technology, the budget is silent, period. On the trade front, there is nothing in the budget to build on or to expand on the many export support and promotion programs introduced by the former administration. The government is going to close three trade offices, two of them located in our major trading market in the United States. It is going to close these offices at a time not only when we are in the midst of a national debate on enhanced trading with the US but also when the statistics indicate the American market is more important than ever to Ontario exporters.

I am sure the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Treasurer know that during this decade the value of our trade with the US has increased at a greater rate than our trade with any other trading partner. In spite of that, the government has decided to close those offices.

This budget debate is in many ways more about political posturing than about policy. This is a budget without vision because it ignores the future while trying to settle a few old scores with former administrations.

The budget does nothing in the area of technology and trade.

Interjections.

Mr. Andrewes: My colleagues are now urging me on. Where were they earlier?

This budget and the performance of this administration during the current session have taught me a valuable lesson about how this government operates. I would like to share some of this insight with my friends, particularly those on the government benches, if I have any.

When this government does not have the policies of the former Tory administration to fall back on or to continue, or it does not have the policies of the New Democratic Party to adopt or to implement–the leader took all the credit for that today–it is a government without an agenda and without a purpose. Every time this government has been faced with a problem to which it cannot turn to the New Democrats for an answer or to find a reason to blame them, its only response has been to appoint another task force or another commission. There is an endless series of task forces and commissions.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Andrewes: I will conclude my remarks in due order by going back to the wise statements by St. Clair Gordon, that great historian, former Liberal and now the treasurer of Liberal heaven. St. Clair Gordon would be ashamed of a budget that he would not support and this party will not support.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: This is not the only budget windup I have ever participated in in this House, but it is the first time from this vantage point and I must say I prefer this vantage point.

I learned a great deal as I sat and listened to the members opposite summing up today on behalf of their parties. I was not aware that the leader of the New Democratic Party was contemplating his autobiography. Obviously, he is coming to grips with his own mortality and wants to get it all in writing before someone gets writing ahead of him. A pre-emptive strike, graphically speaking, is always the best strike one can take.

Hearing my friend opposite talking about St. Clair Gordon, Bill Gordon to his friends, I appreciate the new reverence he has for our Liberal forbear. I agree with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio): There was no good Tory to quote, so he found a good Liberal.

My sense is that if we could talk to Mr. Gordon today, he would say, "That young whippersnapper, that kid of Harry Nixon, did a hell of a good job." My sense is that is the kind of thing he would say. "I knew when I looked at that 10-year-old boy at the time that he would turn out to be the Treasurer of this province and produce the finest budget this province has ever seen." Members can substantiate this. I am not sure there are any Tories in heaven they could commune with, but the Liberals in heaven we have communed with all agree with everything I have just said.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the many people who have made this session one of the busiest and most productive, in my memory, in the quantity and quality of the legislation. Many people may attack this government for being wrong, and some will, but I do not think it will ever be attacked for its failure to

press ahead, its lack of courage or its clear vision of where it wants to go.

I want to thank many people; first, the members of this Legislature. In spite of our differences, we have seen that minority government can work and work well. I am the first to acknowledge that we sit on this side of the House today through a series of accidents. I call them happy accidents; others may not. We have had three minority governments over the past four elections and this House has achieved a degree of maturity on all sides, I say that respectfully, from all members to make it work for the benefit of the people we all serve.

When we signed the accord with the New Democratic Party, it did not include everything we or the NDP have talked about but we were both searching for the things we had in common, just as we have a great deal in common with the Conservative Party. In spite of the things that divide us, the things we have in common are far more important. That is what the people of this province want us to act upon.

In summation, may I also thank you, Mr. Speaker, the members of your table, the pages and the number of people who have served us all in making this Legislature work. I have a special obligation to the civil servants. When I sat opposite, my views about them were occasionally different. I am the first to acknowledge it. If I have to publicly atone, I will so do.

I have been impressed with their professionalism, the way they have accommodated one of the fastest transitions we have seen outside of the recent Quebec election, with six days into this House, and they have been dedicated and loyal in every respect. They have respected the leadership that must come from the parliamentary wing and they have never done anything to subvert the leadership they expect us to provide and recognize we have provided in this House.

Miss Stephenson: They have been well schooled.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member for York Mills wants to make a speech. She is welcome to. I always enjoy listening to her. I include even her in my thanks. She provided a great deal of joy to me when I was in opposition and she was in government, just watching her on a daily basis and watching her react to the events of the day–

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Talk about Vesuvius.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: One of the things we have to do is make sure we continue to have the maximum participation and creativity of every member of this House.

Miss Stephenson: Mount Rushmore is going to get it; the old stone-face.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member for York Mills should leave the Treasurer alone. He has been criticized by the members opposite. He cannot handle being picked on any more.

Miss Stephenson: The poor, delicate little boy cannot handle anything except that he is setting himself up for Premier.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member could do me a favour. She left for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) while he was speaking; will she kindly leave for me as well? I will be grateful if she goes to her office and listens to this on the machine. She did not hear her own member. She should not feel obliged to hear my speech. I do not think she will enjoy it. She does not have to stay.

5:10 p.m.

I believe we need new outlets for the creativity of the members. We have gone some way towards that in the last session with committees on economic affairs, energy, parliamentary procedures, appointments and things of that sort. We have a responsibility to try to increase that. Indeed, I am anxious to negotiate a new set of rules with members of this House, agreed to by all parties, and try some experiments to make sure every member in this House is participating to the fullest extent of his or her abilities and creativity. If these experiments do not work we can always go back to the old way.

We have nothing to hide on this side of the House. We have shared information. I am not here just to trumpet the cause of the government, but I think any reasonable, fair-minded person–and I assume this includes the members opposite–would agree we have brought forward initiatives in the last seven months to bring openness to government unlike any ever contemplated by the members opposite.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is just a reality.

We are providing real leadership right across this province with respect to freedom of information. I am not anxious to get into a partisan fight, but members know I am right. Any public opinion poll that has been taken by our government–I do not think we have taken any–has been tabled and shared. We believe that information rightfully belongs to the people of this province.

We are bringing television into this House. We are going to let everyone see what is going on

here because we think it is important that we be fully accountable in all respects.

We are going to bring in translation and other aspects to make this Legislature accountable to the people it serves. We will have better government when more people know what really goes on in this House.

We have tried to bring a new kind of fairness to the appointment process. We have brought women and minorities into important roles in the government and in the institutions, boards and agencies of this province. We will continue to do that because we take the view that we represent them; they do not represent us. We are trying to make all people feel fully comfortable in their Ontario. That is a profound commitment of this party and we are fulfilling it at present.

We have much left to do. I think we have achieved a great deal in a relatively short time. I assure the House we will continue with these thrusts in the future as we have in the past.

I do not intend to dwell at great length on the budget, except to say I think the Treasurer used extraordinary judgement. All the numbers bear that out. Since January 1985, 196,000 jobs have come to this province. I am not the Prime Minister–I am not trying to take credit for everything–but look at the facts and the growth. There has been five per cent real growth over the past year. Housing is up by 33 per cent.

I recognize there are certain inexorable economic forces with which we have to deal as a government, as do others who are not in the government. However, those are the realities of the numbers at the moment. Manufacturing shipments are up by 8.5 per cent. Our economy at the moment is relatively buoyant.

Mr. Timbrell: It is all due to the Premier; is that not wonderful?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is not due to me. I assume the member is not pretending it is due to him.

I am also the first to admit that no one can guarantee a rosy economic future. We face some extremely tough challenges ahead. Along with the rest of Canada and the industrialized world, we have to contend with enormous economic changes that are taking place around us. The recent run on the dollar, followed by the rise in interest rates, shows how quickly these things can happen in the modern world. The world is becoming smaller. We see rapid advances in science and technology. We have a great challenge to meet as a province and as a country. Dealing with these economic realities as an agenda for the future will be an important thrust of this government, as it has been in the past.

The last budget had to deal with an enormous number of problems. I point this out to remind members that this Treasurer took a tough-nosed, business view of the books and wrote off close to $4 billion in inflated or worthless assets that had been on the books of this province. Previous governments were too embarrassed to state the real worth of these assets. We came in with a tough business view. We were respected for doing that and did extremely well, in my view, in the circumstances.

By contemporary or traditional accounting methods, the net cash requirements actually came down. We accomplished that in the context of increased programs we promised during the campaign without increasing the deficit. We saw in this budget a great deal of creativity, as was seen in the past and will be seen in the future.

It is not often that politicians have an opportunity to be true pioneers. It is my belief that in the introduction of the legislation for equal pay for work of equal value, the pay equity legislation, we have together participated in something historic. I believe we are in a position to provide leadership to other jurisdictions, not just in Canada but in North America and the free world. I am looking forward to the successful resolution of that new policy thrust.

I am mindful of the objections. I have heard them from everyone. I have heard them from the members opposite. I have a number of letters in my office. I suspect they are very similar to the kinds of letters politicians received in the year 1953, when equal pay for equal work was brought in as the law of the land in Ontario.

It is one of those things we will look back at 20 years from now as we are all sitting around at the Albany Club or wherever we will be sitting around 20 years from now. Not me; they do not invite me. We will say, "Remember that discussion about equal pay for work of equal value? Remember the howls that used to come up, but remember how we surmounted those problems and together forged something that is significant and real and has made a real difference in people's lives?" I think we will look forward to that day. I look forward to sitting down with all the members of this House at our reunion 20 years from now and sharing the credit together.

As members know, we have made a number of initiatives with respect to medical care and northern travel. A number have been alluded to already. The honourable member is quite right;

we have faced up to our campaign promise to end extra billing. It is not easy. I am not one who relishes the disgruntlement of the medical profession. I wish it was not so. I respect it as such, but it is a reality that we have the responsibility to govern. This party will never become captive to élites. We will do, and we are doing, what we said we would do. It is my belief that this matter can be worked out with thoughtful discussion. We stand ready to sit down with the Ontario Medical Association on any occasion to discuss the successful implementation of our principle to end extra billing. I hope there is going to be substantial progress along the way in the next little while.

We have also made great initiatives with respect to the elderly. There has been very sensitive work done by my colleague the Minister without Portfolio who is in charge of senior citizens' affairs, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), that will bear fruit in the next little while.

We have strengthened rent review. We have brought in a comprehensive housing package, which I believe is the most comprehensive view ever taken of the housing situation in this province.

We have provided first-contract arbitration.

Mr. Timbrell: We will see how many starts there are by April.

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I see the member opposite is trying to provoke me, saying our policies are a sham. I never cease to marvel at the temerity of my friends opposite attacking us for what we did not do. How they can summon up that duplicity never ceases to amaze me.

In the area of the environment, I agree with the leader of the New Democratic Party that his critic has done an outstanding job, but it is second only to the outstanding job done by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). I am mindful, as are some on this side of the House, of the enormous pressure that comes to bear on people with his kind of dedication and zeal. I have been subject to the pressure, as he has, but we will not yield to that pressure. We believe the land that yields us our daily bread is not for sale. We are going to continue to press the environmental cause and I am very proud it is in the hands of someone as strong-minded as our minister.

There have been many initiatives, and I hope we all share them, because we now are creating an example for the world and not just for Canada and North America. People are coming to us and asking how we are able provide this leadership. I do not see anybody who has left this province because of environmental concerns. I do not see anybody who has left this province because we have taken a tough-minded view. They are ready, willing and able to respond to tough-minded leadership.

We do not try, every time we make a decision, to make every single person happy, because we cannot do it. The only way one can make everybody happy is not to do anything. I know of previous governments in the past that took that view, but that is not our view of our responsibility. As a party, we are very proud to have the opportunity to live our ideals and to practise them in a legislative forum.

We have taken other initiatives in the cultural area with respect to the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Film Development Corp. and others that I think will be beneficial not only from a cultural standpoint but also from the standpoint of the economics of this province. I hope that we in this province will continue to play a constructive role in national forums as we continue to discuss free trade and other issues.

I could be proved wrong in future, but I believe relations in this country today are probably as strong as they have been in a very long time, not only with our sister province of Quebec but also with sister provinces in the west, such as Alberta and British Columbia, ones with which we have historic differences. I have spent a lot of time with my peers and all of them, including the Prime Minister, are reaching out to try to end some of the confrontation of the past.

Je crois qu'on va probablement avoir une confédération plus forte, une confédération qui serait plus sensible à tous les besoins de toutes les régions du Canada.

I think we have accomplished a great deal together. I believe that as of yesterday we had passed 34 bills on third reading, we had seven bills on second reading and 21 bills on first reading. Obviously, we still have a lot of work to do in the session that is to come in a couple of months or so. It has been time-consuming and it has been demanding.

I recognize, as the members opposite recognize, that we can come forward with an announcement and say what we are going to do. However, then we get into the difficult and laborious process of working it through the legislative chamber to make it law, taking time and carefully contemplating each clause, each word and all the definitions. We need everyone's help in that regard. Then comes the final stage of the execution and management thereof.

Together we have approached these matters in a sensitive and constructive way. I am mindful of the overblown rhetoric we all use; I am the first who participates in that and probably we are all guilty on occasion. In spite of that, it has gone extremely well. We have accomplished a lot and we have a lot left to do.

I hope the members opposite are persuaded on rereading the expert budget of my colleague the Treasurer, so that they will rise up and support the budget, recognizing it was creative and ground-breaking, one of the finest budgets this province has seen since the great St. Clair Gordon.

In conclusion, I hope everyone has an opportunity to have a little holiday in the next month or two and to get reunited with his or her family. I will look forward to seeing everyone back here some time in April–I believe the date has been set–as we sit again on a very busy and, I hope, constructive agenda.

Mr. Speaker: On Thursday, October 24, 1985, Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Mr. Peterson, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

On Friday, October 25, 1985, Mr. McCague moved, seconded by Mr. Gregory, that the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government be amended by deleting the words following "that" and adding thereto the following:

"This House, recognizing that the 1985 budget fails to provide the policies and programs needed to sustain employment, economic growth, and enhance social equity, condemns the government for:

"Irresponsibly increasing the deficit and jeopardizing the financial stability of the province;

"Its failure to meet the needs of 386,000 unemployed people in Ontario;

"Abandoning the people of northern Ontario by failing to provide for adequate funding for development of the north;

"Ignoring the plight of farmers throughout the province;

"Its failure to respond to the needs and interests of the women of Ontario;

"Its failure to provide for the preservation and enhancement of our environment and resources;

"Inadequate support for homemakers and home care programs for the seniors of Ontario at a time when the demand for these programs is increasing;

"Worsening the situation for our tourism industry by reducing financial assistance and increasing taxes;

"Exorbitant tax increases which will further reduce the spending power of Ontario consumers while offering no visible benefit;

"Its failure to provide assistance in the form of food banks, emergency shelters for those of our citizens who fall through the social safety net;

"Its failure to guarantee accessibility to the health care system by enhancing the Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance programs;

"Neglecting the need for a comprehensive and coherent economic and industrial strategy to generate new growth, employment and wealth in an increasingly competitive and complex international marketplace;

"Therefore this government lacks the confidence of this House."

5:40 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. McCague's amendment to the motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Brandt, Cousens, Davis, Dean, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Marland, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McNeil, Partington, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, Timbrell, Treleaven, Turner.

Nays

Allen, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaître, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Knight, Kwinter, Laughren, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel,

McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, Offer, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Ayes 35; nays 66.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Nixon's motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

5:50 p.m.

SUPPLY ACT

The following bill was given first, second and third readings on motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon:

Bill 110, An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Assistant Clerk: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 3, An Act respecting Actions arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions;

Bill 16, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act;

Bill 76, An Act to amend The Public Service Superannuation Act;

Bill 103, An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983;

Bill 107, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario in session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to present for Your Honour's acceptance, a bill entitled An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986.

Clerk of the House: The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill in Her Majesty's name.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to deliver the following gracious speech.

PROROGATION SPEECH

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to address you for the first time and take this opportunity to look back on some of the work completed during the first session of the 33rd Parliament of Ontario.

My government has given priority to the objective of setting the province on a course aimed at achieving the aspirations of the people, the goals of a strengthened economy, an open government, a clean environment and the creation of opportunities for all. The co-operation and participation of all members have contributed to the efforts to achieve these objectives. For that dedication to duty, you are to be commended.

The Treasurer's 1985 budget dealt with the need to encourage increased economic activity and improve services essential to the health and wellbeing of the people of Ontario in a framework of fiscal responsibility.

The financial statement brought greater clarity to the province's accounting and budgeting procedure and eliminated some outstanding financial obligations, including the note on the province's interest in Suncor oil. Ontario's eight per cent unemployment rate in 1985 was the lowest in four years, and the 7.3 per cent adjusted rate last month was the lowest in 50 months.

The government has set the stage for long-term development through the budget and other measures, including the Futures program, to provide meaningful jobs and training opportunities for hard-to-employ young people; the establishment of funds totalling $80 million to promote excellence in colleges and universities; a $50-million program to help farmers cope with high interest rates; a $20-million allocation for Ontario red meat producers through a tripartite stabilization plan; a $6-million transition fund for tobacco growers and other farmers leaving agriculture and a policy to preserve needed farm land; the creation of a $100-million northern development fund, and an expansion of the role of small business development corporations in the north and the east.

During this session, a concerted drive was launched to improve government efforts to meet the basic needs of the people of this province, including introduction of the comprehensive assured housing for Ontario program; expansion of rent review and funding to aid the construction of at least 10,000 additional nonprofit housing units; the initiation of a process to create 10,000 additional spaces in child care facilities over three years and preparations to open a day care centre at Queen's Park; introduction of legislation to eliminate extra billing by doctors;

Allocation of an 8.3 per cent increase in provincial funding for Ontario hospitals; subsidies to northern residents who have to travel more than 300 kilometres to receive necessary medical care; introduction of legislation to ensure realistic drug prices to protect consumers and bring sound management to the government drug benefit plan; initiation of studies to improve our ability to provide services to senior citizens in their homes; an allocation of an additional $11 million for services to senior citizens; introduction of legislation to tie workers' compensation benefits to inflation; increased family benefits and additional assistance to provide winter clothing for children, and introduction of legislation to provide for arbitration of first-contract disputes.

This session also saw determined efforts to protect and preserve our environment and natural resources, including proclamation of an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act to ensure that those responsible for chemical spills are also responsible for cleaning them up; a new program, Countdown Acid Rain, requiring Ontario's four major producers of sulphur dioxide to reduce emissions sharply; release of an independent audit of the province's forests and their management; an agreement with the state of Michigan to help combat transboundary air pollution and prevent chemical spills in boundary waters, and a policy to regulate the production of soft drink containers to stimulate a province-wide recycling program while protecting the interests of the steel industry and its workers.

During this session, considerable activity was devoted to achieving equal rights for all, including a $1-million grant to the women's Legal Education and Action Fund to support cases brought by Ontario women based on women's rights and guarantees in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; tabling of a green paper on pay equity and introduction of legislation to provide for that principle in the public sector, and proclamation of a Family Law Act bringing our statutes into line with the principles of fairness and equity.

We have also seen considerable progress in opening the process of government to the people it serves, including introduction of freedom-of-information and privacy legislation; the release of 30 public opinion surveys conducted over the past three years and paid for by public funds, and introduction of television in the Legislature for a trial period to set the basis for full-time broadcast.

At the same time, the goal of encouraging and promoting the province's cultural development has been furthered through such measures as the creation of the Ontario Film Development Corp.; allocation of an additional $2 million to the Ontario Arts Council to fund small-sized and middle-sized arts agencies and organizations, and initiation of a dialogue on multiculturalism with representatives of 21 communities across the province.

Honourable members, your efforts to improve the quality of life in this province have been admirable and your achievements have been considerable.

Au nom de notre souveraine, je vous remercie.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you.

Je déclare cette session prorogée.

I now declare this session prorogued.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued, and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House prorogued at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS

194. Mr. J. M. Johnson: Would the Minister of Transportation and Communications advise what action is being taken to immediately alleviate the very serious winter road conditions on Highway 6, north of the village of Arthur? Would the minister further advise the number of times this highway has been closed for traffic this winter, the records of the previous five winters–please state the number of accidents that have occurred on Highway 6 between the village of Arthur and the town of Mount Forest during the winter months–and the accident records for the past five years? Would the minister provide details of his ministry's plans to improve the safety of this section of Highway 6 and please tell us the time frame of such plans? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The answer is as follows:

Winter Nov. 1 to Mar. 31	Number of Accidents	Number of Closures (Reported by OPP)
1981-82	31	Not available
1982-83	8	nil
1983-84	29	2
1984-85	28	8
1985-86	not available yet	5 (to Jan. 6/86)

Stratford district lies within a major snowbelt zone fed by frequent storms originating over Lake Huron. Most of the highways within the district are prone to heavy drifting and some white-out conditions depending, in part, on the highway direction relative to prevailing winds, the topography adjacent to the highway and the space available for snow storage at the edge of the roadway.

Although Highway 6 has not been our most difficult highway to maintain, the numbers of accidents and closures are definitely a concern to us. In this regard, we have identified two of the more critical locations on Highway 6, and as part of an ongoing improvement program throughout the district, we have requested our research branch to study and make recommendations to alleviate the drifting and white-out conditions.

A study report has just been received from the consultant working with our research branch, and we are in the process of assessing the findings in anticipation of carrying out certain remedial improvements as part of our 1986 maintenance program. Flattening of side slopes, ditch enlargement and snow fencing will likely be the primary measures at the two more severe locations.

Assuming the availability of funds, we propose to carry out the work on a priority basis some time during the upcoming summer. We also propose to examine our ploughing and sanding routes, as well as our equipment assignments, to help ensure that the designated level of service is achieved.

FOOD LAND GUIDELINES

195. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Agriculture and Food give the names of all exemptions to Ontario Food Land Guidelines through the official plan amendment that have been given from July 1, 1985, to December 31, 1985, to whom they were given and how much acreage was exempted in the regions of York, Durham and Peel? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It is not entirely clear what is meant by the question, in that there are technically no exemptions to the Food Land Guidelines.

Official plan amendments are prepared by the municipalities and then are forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for approval. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs circulates the proposed amendments to a number of public agencies, including our ministry, for comments. Our ministry provides comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs based on compliance of the proposed amendments with the policies of the Food Land Guidelines. We are confident that the

Ministry of Municipal Affairs forwards us all official plan amendments dealing with agricultural land.

The Food Land Guidelines state that nonfarm development will be permitted on prime agricultural land only if such development is justified in accordance with established criteria. We are not aware of any official plan amendments that have been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in York, Durham or Peel or, for that matter, the province in the period from July 1, 1985, to December 31, 1985, that did not comply with the intent of the Food Land Guidelines. This, of course, does not mean that some amendments have not been approved allowing for development on prime agricultural land.

FREE TRADE

212. Mr. Harris: Would the Premier advise the House what was the total cost of the report commissioned from US Consultants, which stated that 281,000 Ontario jobs were vulnerable by a free trade agreement with the United States? If the free trade talks fail to materialize, what would be the effect of the 300 protectionist trade bills before the US Congress, if passed, on Ontario exports to the US? Please table any studies that have been done, indicating how many Ontario jobs would be in jeopardy. [Tabled January 29, 1986]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The study that estimated 281,000 jobs could be vulnerable to free trade with the US was not commissioned from US Consultants. It was undertaken by staff at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and, as such, did not involve a specific cost.

With respect to the 300 protectionist bills in Congress, it is not possible to speculate on the potential Ontario job impact of these gaining passage. It is too speculative to determine realistically which bills might actually pass and what form they might take if passed. No studies have been specifically undertaken with respect to the impact of proposed US congressional bills on Ontario jobs.

Because of the highly speculative nature of estimating Ontario job impacts associated with the proposed US congressional bills, studies based on this hypothetical scenario have not been specifically undertaken.

CABINET OFFICE POSITIONS

217. Mr. Sheppard: Would the Premier inform the House of the following details of the three executive positions that were advertised in Topical magazine, namely, (a) executive co-ordinator, justice policy, (b) executive co-ordinator for economics and (c) executive co-ordinator for the social development field: How many applicants applied? How many were interviewed? Please provide names, their qualifications and the final successful applicants. Where are their offices to be located? How much support staff will be provided? Please provide their job descriptions, along with their office budgets. To whom will each be responsible? Please state salaries and all other benefits. How long are their employment contracts? What kind of severance pay provisions were made? [Tabled January 29, 1986]

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The three executive co-ordinator positions in Cabinet Office are newly formed positions.

The position of executive co-ordinator, justice policy, was advertised in the Topical magazine. The competition was subsequently waived as the Civil Service Commission and senior staff in Cabinet Office agreed to select a suitable candidate from the senior corporate inventory. The positions of executive co-ordinator, social policy, and executive co-ordinator, economic policy, were filled from the corporate inventory.

The successful candidates are Don Evans, executive co-ordinator, justice policy; Linda Stevens, executive co-ordinator, economic policy; and Marcia Sypnowich, executive co-ordinator, social policy. The salary range for each position is $62,400 to $74,700.

The staff will be located on the third floor of the Legislative Building. The three executive co-ordinators will have a total of eight staff reporting directly to them, including policy analysts and administrative/secretarial support. The budget for these staff members is included in the overall budget for Cabinet Office. With the exception of one support staff member, these people are full-time civil servants.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS

218. Mr. Harris: Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology provide information, studies or background materials on Canada's softwood lumber exports to the United States? If no agreement is reached on softwood lumber exports and the US protectionist bills are implemented, how many jobs would it cost in Ontario's forest industry and how many jobs would it cost in Ontario's paper industry? [Tabled January 29, 1986]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: In 1984, Canada exported C$3.2 billion of softwood lumber to the US. Previous years' Canada-US exports: 1983, $2.9

billion; 1982, $1.8 billion; 1981, $1.9 billion; and 1980, $1.9 billion. Canadian market share has increased from 28 per cent of the total US softwood lumber market in 1978 to 31 per cent in 1984 and an estimated 34 per cent for 1985. MITT, in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources, would be pleased to provide further data if the question could be clarified as to the type, nature and period for which information is required.

Because of the numerous US protectionist softwood lumber bills in Congress (more than seven), there is no way to accurately predict how many jobs would be lost to Ontario in the forest industry if one or several bills were passed. Several legislative approaches have been introduced to provide protection: direct quotas, negotiated export restrictions, new/increased tariffs and redefining natural resource subsidies. These bills are not mutually exclusive; various bills combine two or three elements.

Total direct and indirect employment in the Ontario forestry resources sector, including logging, paper and allied industries, was approximately 150,000 in 1985. In the forestry industry, the most vulnerable jobs could likely be found in the sawmilling and related service industries, which together employed 6,000 in 1985.

In the paper and pulp sector, there were approximately 42,000 Ontario jobs in 1985.

In any circumstances where key US protectionist bills were passed (e.g., countervailing duty, redefinition of natural resource subsidy), it is estimated that the impact on Ontario jobs would not be immediate. This is due to the nature of key US legislation, which could take one or two years for full implementation.

ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES

219. Mr. J. M. Johnson: Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology provide an explanation as to why Ontario computer servicemen have been denied entry into the United States to service computers built in Canada and sold to US customers? How can we sell Ontario-built computers to American companies if they cannot provide computer service? Please table any action your government is taking to rectify this situation. [Tabled January 29, 1986]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Ontario computer servicemen, as well as other Canadian repair and servicing personnel, were being denied entry into the US to meet contractual after-sales service obligations as a result of an August 25, 1985, California court ruling in response to a complaint by a US union, the International Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen. This ruling declared US immigration category B-1, which allowed such entrance into the US, as being illegal.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology recognizes the importance to Ontario companies of after-sales service to sales and therefore perceives this US action as a very significant nontariff barrier in the light of the Quebec summit declaration between the US and Canada, which specifically included reference to the intent to facilitate business travel across the US-Canada border.

After several unsuccessful appeals, on November 25, 1985, the US Justice Department, along with the US union, agreed to the terms of an interim staying order and filed a joint motion with the US circuit court of appeals. The court of appeals ruled favourably on the joint motion and on December 19, 1985, granted an interim staying order on the California court ruling.

This matter was pursued by officials of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, through ongoing negotiations with federal officials at the Department of External affairs and the US Department of Immigration and Naturalization. It appears that during the period of August 1985 until December 1985, little significant disruption was caused for those Ontario companies involved, since over that period, of the approximately 56 Ontario companies which approached the ministry, all but one of their cases were resolved satisfactorily.

Thus, the more pernicious effects of that original California court rulings have been reversed in that entry of Canadian service personnel for after-sales service work (guaranteed under the sales contract for a maximum period of one year after the sale) will again be granted under the B-1 entry classification.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC

Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer **Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC**

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)
Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
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Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
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Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
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Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment

Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food

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Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy

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Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

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Ferraro, R. E., assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wellington South L)

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McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)

Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

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Ombudsman: chairman, Mr. McNeil; vice-chairman, Sheppard; members, Messrs. Baetz, Bossy, Hayes, Henderson, McLean, Morin, Newman, Philip and Shymko; clerk, T. Decker.

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Social development: chairman, Mr. R. F. Johnston; vice-chairman, Mr. Allen; members, Messrs. Bernier, Davis, Henderson, Jackson, G. I. Miller, Offer, Reville, Reycraft and Miss Stephenson; clerk, L. Mellor; assistant clerk, D. Deller.

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Health: chairman, Mr. Callahan; members, Messrs. D. S. Cooke, Cousens, Ms. Gigantes, Messrs. Henderson, Mancini, Partington, Pope, D. W. Smith, Miss Stephenson and Mr. Ward; clerk, D. Deller.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Alexander, Hon. L. M., Lieutenant Governor
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
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Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
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Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
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Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
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Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)
McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
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Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
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Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

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S—Social Development
T—Regulations and Private Bills

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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(124 members)

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*Resigned September 15, 1985

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Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)
Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

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Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

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Smith, E. J. (London South L)

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Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)
Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment
Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services
Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Development and Mines
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communication
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture
Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development

Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Cordiano, J., assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Downsview L)

Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer (Waterloo North L)

Ferraro, R. E., assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wellington South L)

Haggerty, R., assistant to the Minister of Government Services (Erie L)

Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Humber L)

Mancini, R., assistant to the Premier (Essex South L)

McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Energy (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)

Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

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Charity House (Windsor) Act, No. Pr21
Children's Law Reform Act, No. 12
Children's Onocology Care of Ontario Inc. Act, No. Pr17
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City of Cambridge Act, No. Pr18
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Creditors' Relief Act, No. 15
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Wellington County Board of Education and Teachers Dispute Settlement Act, No. 63
Workers' Compensation Act, Nos. 32, 81
404 K-W Wing Royal Canadian Air Force Association Act, No. Pr22

Government Bills

Bill 1 – An Act to revise the Family Law Reform Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading [English] – Hon. A.W. Pope)

First reading 13 (English), 653 (French). Ministerial statement 23. Second reading 1019. In committee 3205. Third reading 3208. Royal assent 3222.

Bill 3 – An Act respecting Actions arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 90. First reading 105. Second reading 3964. Third reading 4084. Royal assent 4096.

Bill 7 – An Act to amend the Equality Rights Statute Law Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 138. First reading 152. Second reading 1034.

Bill 8 – An Act to amend the Mobility Rights Statute Law Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 141. First reading 152. Second reading 1036, 1085. Third reading 1529. Royal assent 1539.

Bill 9 – An Act to establish the Ministry of Skills Development – Hon. G.S. Sorbara (First reading – Hon. P.A. Gillies)

Ministerial statement 136. First reading 152.

Bill 11 – An Act to revise the Change of Name Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 209. First reading 222. Second reading 2907. Third reading 3243. Royal assent 3268.

Bill 12 – An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 209. First reading 223. Second reading 2907. In committee 2915. Third reading 3243. Royal assent 3268.

Bill 13 – An Act to amend the Vital Statistics Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 209. First reading 223. Second reading 2907. In committee 2918. Third reading 3243. Royal assent 3268.

Bill 14 – Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act, 1985 – Hon. I.G. Scott (Ministerial statement and first reading [English] – Hon. A.W. Pope)

Ministerial statement 209. First reading 223 (English), 653 (French). Second reading 1088. Third reading 1529. Royal assent 1539.

Bill 15 – An Act to amend the Creditors' Relief Act – Hon. I.G. Scott (First reading – Hon. A.W. Pope)

First reading 223. Second reading 766. In committee 767. Third reading 770. Royal assent 771.

Bill 16 – An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act – Hon. E. Fulton (First reading – Hon. G.R. McCague)

First reading 289. Second reading 4042. Third reading 4084. Royal assent 4096.

Bill 17 – An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act – Hon. E. Fulton (First reading – Hon. G.R. McCague)

First reading 289. Second reading 2573, 2600. In committee 2610. Third reading 2641. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 18 – An Act to amend the Off-Road Vehicles Act, 1983 – Hon. E. Fulton (First reading – Hon. G.R. McCague)
First reading 289.

Bill 22 – An Act to amend Certain Acts respecting Regional Municipalities – Hon. B.C Grandmaître (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. D.R. Timbrell)
Ministerial statement 360. First reading 375. Second reading 2614. In committee 2617.

Bill 23 – An Act to amend Certain Acts in relation to Line Fences – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître (First reading – D.R. Timbrell)
Ministerial statement 360. First reading 375.

Bill 24 – An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth Act – Hon B.C. Grandmaître (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. D.R. Timbrell)
Ministerial statement 360. First reading 375. Second reading 2303. Third reading 2304. Royal assent 2313.

Bill 25 – An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître (First reading – Hon. D.R. Timbrell)
Ministerial statement 360. First reading 375.

Bill 26 – An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. D.R. Timbrell)
Ministerial statement 360. First reading 375. Second reading 770. Third reading 770. Royal assent 771.

Bill 27 – An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître (Ministerial statement and first reading – Hon. D.R. Timbrell)
Ministerial statement 360. First reading 375. Second reading 1017. Third reading 1529. Royal assent 1539.

Bill 28 – An Act to amend the Education Act – Hon. L.S. Grossman
Ministerial statement 363. First reading 375. Withdrawn 1171.

Bill 29 – An Act to revise the Mining Act – Hon. R. Fontaine (First reading – Hon. M.D. Harris)
Ministerial statement 357. First reading 375.

Bill 30 – An Act to amend the Education Act – Hon. S.G. Conway
Ministerial statement 450. First reading 465. Second reading 589, 613, 659, 696, 721.

Bill 32 – An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Hon. W.M. Wrye
Ministerial statement 493. First reading 506. Second reading 546. In committee 563. Third reading 770. Royal assent 771.

Bill 34 – An Act to provide for the Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy – Hon. I.G. Scott
Ministerial statement 753. First reading 766. Second reading 3952.

Bill 38 – An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître
First reading 849. Second reading 1069. In committee 1079. Third reading 1084. Royal assent 1129.

Bill 41 – An Act to repeal the Ontario Economic Council Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062.

Bill 42 – An Act to repeal the Ontario Education Capital Aid Corporations Act and the Ontario Universities Capital Aid Corporation Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 2642. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 43 – An Act to authorize the raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 2021, 2759. Third reading 2939. Royal assent 3015.

Bill 44 – An Act to amend the Small Business Development Corporations Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 2762, 2771. In committee 2775. Third reading 2939. Royal assent 3015.

Bill 45 – An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 1390, 1437. In committee 2313, 2323, 2497, 2515. Third reading 2599. Royal assent 2613.

Bill 46 – An Act to amend the Income Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 1407, 1419, 1437. In committee 2499, 2515. Third reading 2599. Royal assent 2613.

Bill 47 – An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 1424. In committee 2506, 2537, 2579. Third reading 2742. Royal assent 2759.

Bill 48 – An Act to amend the Land Transfer Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 1435, 1489, 1509. In committee 2540. Third reading 2720. Royal assent 2759.

Bill 49 – An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 1496, 1530. In committee 2548. Third reading 2720. Royal assent 2759.

Bill 50 – An Act to amend the Fuel Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 1635, 1707. In committee 2552, 2561, 2579. Third reading 2720. Royal assent 2759.

Bill 51 – An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 1062. Second reading 2057, 2085, 2255, 2261, 2304. In committee 2564, 2579. Third reading 2720. Royal assent 2759.

Bill 54 – An Act to authorize and regulate the Payment by the Minister to specified Persons on behalf of Specified Classes of Persons for the Dispensing of Specified Drugs – Hon. M.J. Elston
Ministerial statement 1445. First reading 1464. Second reading 2153, 2776, 2808, 2837, 2992. 3025.

Bill 55 – An Act to provide for the Protection of the Public in respect of the Cost of Certain Prescription Drugs – Hon. M.J. Elston
Ministerial statement 1445. First reading 1464. Second reading 3042.

Bill 57 – An Act to amend the Assessment Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
Ministerial statement 1517. First reading 1530. Second reading 2029. Third reading 2040. Royal assent 2215.

Bill 63 – An Act respecting the Wellington County Board of Education and Teachers Dispute – Hon. S.G. Conway
Ministerial statement 1767. First reading 1786. Second reading 1824. In committee 1851. Third reading 1871. Royal assent 1872.

Bill 65 – An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act – Hon. W.M. Wrye
Ministerial statement 1809. First reading 1823. Second reading 3558, 3724.

Bill 66 – An Act to amend the Business Corporations Act, 1982 – Hon. M. Kwinter
First reading 1823.

Bill 68 – An Act to amend the Securities Act – Hon. M. Kwinter
First reading 2057.

Bill 70 – An Act to amend the Provincial Offences Act – Hon. I.G. Scott
First reading 2121.

Bill 72 – An Act to amend the Powers of Attorney Act – Hon. I.G. Scott
First reading 2122.

Bill 74 – An Act to amend the Operating Engineers Act – Hon. M. Kwinter
First reading 2302.

Bill 75 – An Act to amend the Education Act – Hon. S.G. Conway
Ministerial statement 2346. First reading 2361. Second reading 3314, 3486.

Bill 76 – An Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act – Hon. E. Caplan
First reading 2428. Second reading 3312. In committee 3314. Third reading 4084. Royal assent 4096.

Bill 77 – An Act to amend certain acts repecting Residential Tenancies – Hon. A. Curling
First reading 2472. Second reading 2643, 2667. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 78 – An Act to provide for the Regulation of Rents Charged for Rental Units in Residential Complexes – Hon. A. Curling
First reading 2472.

Bill 79 – An Act to amend the Municipal Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître
First reading 2472.

Bill 80 – An Act to amend the Planning Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître
First reading 2472. Second reading 2613. Third reading 2641. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 81 – An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Hon. W.M. Wrye
Ministerial statement 2522. First reading 2536. Second reading 2685, 2709. Third reading 2719. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 87 – An Act to revise the Loan and Trust Corporations Act – Hon. M. Kwinter
Ministerial statement 2585. First reading 2598.

Bill 88 – An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 2598. Second reading 2682. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 89 – An Act to amend the Executive Council Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 2598. Second reading 2685. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 90 – An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 2598. Second reading 2685. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill 94 – An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act – Hon. M.J. Elston
Ministerial statement 2626. First reading 2640. Second reading 3076, 3091, 3208, 3275, 3339, 3393, 3407, 3445, 3490, 3515, 3585, 3657, 3692, 3730, 3749, 3785, 3815, 4013.

Bill 95 – An Act respecting Science North – Hon. L.O. Munro
Ministerial statement 2641. First reading 2641. Second reading 3060. In committee 3075. Third reading 3204. Royal assent 3222.

Bill 97 – An Act respecting Amusement Devices – Hon. Mr. Kwinter
First reading 2708. Second reading 3067. In committee 3076. Third reading 3204. Royal assent 3222.

Bill 98 – An Act to implement the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards – Hon. I.G. Scott
First reading 2879.

Bill 101 – An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act – Hon. W.M. Wrye
Ministerial statement 3679. First reading 3692.

Bill 103 – An Act to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 3851. Second 4043. In committee 4053, 4074. Third reading 4084. Royal assent 4096.

Bill 105 – An Act to provide Pay Equity for Employees in Predominantly Female Groups of Jobs in the Public Service – Hon. W.M. Wrye
Ministerial statement 3999. First reading 4013.

Bill 107 – An Act to amend the Municipal Act – Hon. B.C. Grandmaître
First reading 4013. Second reading 4083. Third reading 4084. Royal assent 4096.

Bill 108 – An Act to amend the Insurance Act – Hon. M. Kwinter
First reading 4073.

Bill 109 – An Act to amend the Health Disciplines Act – Hon. M.J. Elston
First reading 4073.

Bill 110 – An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986 – Hon. R.F. Nixon
First reading 4095. Second reading 4095. Third reading 4095. Royal assent 4096.

Members' Bills

Bill 2 – An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act – R.G. Van Horne
First reading 38. Withdrawn 465.

Bill 4 – An Act respecting Advertising by Governmental Organizations – J.F. Foulds
First reading 105.

Bill 5 – An Act to amend the Election Finances Reform Act – J.F. Foulds
First reading 105.

Bill 6 – An Act respecting the Rights of Non-Unionized Workers – R. Haggerty
First reading 105.

Bill 10 – An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act – R. Haggerty
First reading 152.

Bill 19 – An Act to relieve persons from liability in respect of Voluntary Emergency Medical and First Aid Services – R. Haggerty
First reading 289.

Bill 20 – An Act to ensure the Regeneration and Reforestation of Forests in Ontario – J.F. Foulds
First reading 330.

Bill 21 – An Act to amend the Animals for Research Act – E.T. Philip
First reading 330.

Bill 31 – An Act to amend the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act – D.W. Warner
First reading 423.

Bill 33 – An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983 – M.L. Swart
First reading 588.

Bill 35 – An Act to amend the Education Act – T. Grande
First reading 766.

Bill 36 – An Act to amend the Public Vehicles Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 766.

Bill 37 – An Act to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code – E. Gigantes
First reading 849.

Bill 39 – An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth Act – R. Allen
First reading 987. Second reading 1464, 1482.

Bill 40 – An Act to amend the Time Act – R.A. McClellan
First reading 1053. Withdrawn 1568.

Bill 52 – An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act – F.J. Pierce
First reading 1389. Second reading 1678, 1696.

Bill 53 – An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 1389.

Bill 56 – An Act to provide for the Observance of Remembrance Day – J.F. Foulds
First reading 1464.

Bill 58 – An Act to amend the Time Act – R.A. McClellan
First reading 1568. Second reading 2361, 2380.

Bill 59 – An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act – D.J. McFadden
First reading 1677.

Bill 60 – An Act respecting the Register of Ontario Land Information – E.W. Martel
First reading 1677.

Bill 61 – An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 1677.

Bill 62 – An Act respecting Ontario Safe Drinking Water, 1985 – R.A. Grier
First reading 1677.

Bill 64 – An Act to amend the Dog Owners' Liability Act – B. Wildman
First reading 1786.

Bill 67 – An Act to Establish Midwifery as a Self-Governing Health Profession – D.S. Cooke
First reading 1889.

Bill 69 – An Act to establish the Insurance Rate Control Board – M.L. Swart
First reading 2057.

Bill 71 – An Act to protect the Public Health and Comfort and the Environment by prohibiting and controlling Smoking in Public Places – N.W. Sterling
First reading 2121. Second reading 3385.

Bill 73 – An Act to amend the Public Vehicles Act – E.W. Martel
First reading 2237.

Bill 82 – An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 2536.

Bill 83 – An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 2536.

Bill 84 – An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 2536.

Bill 85 – An Act to provide Political Rights for Public Servants – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 2536.

Bill 86 – An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act – D.S. Cooke
First reading 2537.

Bill 91 – An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act – J. Poirier
First reading 2599.

Bill 92 – An Act to amend the Nursing Homes Act – D.S. Cooke
First reading 2599. Second reading 3147.

Bill 93 – An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 2599.

Bill 96 – An Act to acquire the Assets of Inco Limited – E.W. Martel
First reading 2641.

Bill 99 – An Act to require the Disclosure of the Use of Hazardous Substances – E.W. Martel
First reading 3060.

Bill 100 – An Act to provide for the Employment of Disabled Persons – R.W. Mackenzie
First reading 3060.

Bill 102 – An Act to amend the Denture Therapists Act – M.L. Swart
First reading 3692.

Bill 104 – An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act – A.S. Brandt
First reading 3918.

Bill 106 – An Act to amend the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Act – M.H. Bryden
First reading 4013.

Private Bills

Bill Pr1 – An Act to revive Famee Furlane of Hamilton – C. Jackson
First reading 696. Second reading 1529. Third reading 1529. Royal assent 1539.

Bill Pr2 – An Act respecting the Historic Vehicle Society of Ontario – R. Mancini
First reading 654. Second reading 1529. Third reading 1529. Royal assent 1539.

Bill Pr4 – An Act respecting the City of Hamilton – B.A. Charlton
First reading 654. Second reading 3243. Third reading 3243. Royal assent 3268.

Bill Pr5 – An Act respecting the Pauline McGibbon Cultural Centre – S.A. Fish
First reading 766. Second reading 1529. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1539.

Bill Pr6 – An Act respecting the city of St. Catharines – P. Partington
First reading 766. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1539.

Bill Pr8 – An Act to revive Sault Ste. Marie Pied Piper Nursery – K. Morin
First reading 947. Second reading 2600. Third reading 2600. Royal assent 2613.

Bill Pr9 – An Act respecting the City of Toronto – Y.R. Shymko
First reading 947. Second reading 2600. Third reading 2600. Royal assent 2613.

Bill Pr10 – An Act respecting the city of Niagara Falls – R. Haggerty
First reading 766. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr11 – An Act respecting the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario – R. Mancini
First reading 1677. Second reading 2709. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill Pr12 – An Act respecting the Ottawa Little Theatre Inc. – E. Gigantes
First reading 3558.

Bill Pr13 – An Act to revive Central Pipeline Co. Ltd. – J. Cordiano
First reading 696. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr14 – An Act to revive Agricultural Anhydrous Ammonia Co. Ltd. – J. Cordiano
First reading 696. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr15 – An Act respecting the City of North York – R.B. McCaffrey
First reading 799. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr16 – An Act respecting the Canadian National Exhibition Association – Y.R. Shymko
First reading 654. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr17 – An Act respecting the Children's Onocology Care of Ontario Inc. – S.A. Fish
First reading 2428. Second reading 3244. Third reading 3244. Royal assent 3268.

Bill Pr18 – An Act respecting the City of Cambridge – W.W. Barlow
First reading 696. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr19 – An Act respecting the Belleville General Hospital – J. Pollock
First reading 799. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr20 – An Act respecting the Peterborough Civic Hospital – J.M. Turner
First reading 654. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr21 – An Act respecting Charity House, Windsor – B. Newman
First reading 766. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr22 – An Act to revive the 404 K-W Wing Royal Canadian Air Force Association – W.W. Barlow
First reading 798. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr23 – An Act respecting the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation – S. Offer
First reading 766. Second reading 1530. Third reading 1530. Royal assent 1540.

Bill Pr24 – An Act respecting the County of Elgin – R.K. McNeil
First reading 849. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr25 – An Act respecting the City of Brampton – R.V. Callahan
First reading 799. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr26 – An Act respecting the City of Mississauga – M. Marland
First reading 2199. Second reading 3244. Third reading 3244. Royal assent 3269.

Bill Pr27 – An Act respecting the City of Sudbury – E.W. Martel
First reading 849. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr29 – An Act to continue the Corporation of the Township of Wickstead under the Name of the Corporation of the Township of Hornepayne – B. Wildman
First reading 2122. Second reading 2709. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill Pr30 – An Act to revive the Balfour Beach Association – R.B. McCaffrey
First reading 799. Second reading 2199. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr33 – An Act respecting the Township of Osgoode Care Centre – N.W. Sterling
First reading 2122. Second reading 2709. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill Pr34 – An Act respecting the City of Hamilton – B.A. Charlton
First reading 654. Second reading 2600. Third reading 2600. Royal assent 2613.

Bill Pr39 – An Act respecting Peterborough Racing Association Limited – J.M. Turner
First reading 1889. Second reading 2219. Third reading 2199. Royal assent 2215.

Bill Pr40 – An Act to incorporate the Ontario Municipal Recreation Directors Foundation – A.S. Brandt
First reading 1993. Second reading 2709. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill Pr41 – An Act respecting the City of Hamilton – B.A. Charlton
First reading 799.

Bill Pr44 – An Act respecting the city of Kitchener – D.R. Cooke
First reading 1889. Second reading 2709. Third reading 2709. Royal assent 2720.

Bill Pr46 – An Act respecting the Brockville Rowing Club Inc. – R.W. Runciman
First reading 696.

Bill Pr50 – An Act respecting Renfrew Victoria Hospital – P.J. Yakabuski
First reading 3558.

By Subjects

Abattoirs/slaughterhouses

Peterson 1777; Shymko 1777.

Abortions/clinics

D.S. Cooke 3911, G248; Elston 2353, 3910-1, G248; Fish 3910-1, 4070; Gigantes 2353, 4069; Leluk G326; Marland G323; Peterson 582-3, 4069-70; Pope G248; Timbrell 582-3, 2353.

Accidents, motor vehicle

Fulton 3459; Gregory 3459.

Accidents, water

Kerrio 682.

Accountants/auditors

G.H. Dean 1803; R.F. Nixon 1803.

Acid rain

Andrewes 2351, 2530; Bradley 538-9, 2236, 2521-2, 2529-30, 2596-7, 2637-8; Brandt 539; Fish 58-9, 68, 292-3, 2231, 2235-6, 2597, 2638; Fontaine 2235-6; Grier 110, 2231, 2236, 2529-30, 2596-7; Henderson 195; Kerrio 2231; Laughren 2734; Martel 539; F.S. Miller 61, 388; Peterson 2351, 2734-5; Poirier 68; Rae 60-1, 78-9, 538-9, 2235-6, 2350-1, 2529; Timbrell 2735; Villeneuve 2235; Warner 261; Wildman 2637.

Acid spills (*see* Spillage/leakage, hazardous products/waste)

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (*see* AIDS/patients)

Addicts/addiction, drug (*see* Drug abuse/addiction)

Adjournment debate (*see* Debates re answers to oral questions)

Adjournment of House, re

R.F. Nixon 765.

Adoptees records (*see* Children, adopted, records)

Advertising, political parties

Foulds 105.

Advertising agencies

Caplan 3459; Stephenson 3459.

Advertising/publicity

Eakins T4, T29, T49, T86-8, T90; Harris 2299; McCall T34; McDonald T86-9; O'Neil 2299; Pouliot T88-9; Rowe T23-4, T28, T85-90.

Advertising/publicity, government

Baetz 2297, 2339-40; Caplan 505, 2006, 2212, 2241-5, 2249-54, 2586; Eakins 2114, 2424, 2586-7, 2967-9, T85; Fish 2252; Foulds 102-3, 105; Grossman 505, 3941-2; Kerrio 2297-8, 2340; Marland 2243-4, 2249-53; McCall T85; F.S. Miller 103; O'Neil 945; Peterson 409; Philip 505, 1964-5, 2015, 2241-3; Rae 2113-4; Ramsay R366; Riddell 3369; Rowe 2424, 2967-8, T85; Sheppard 945; Snell R366; Sorbara 3941-2; Stephenson 2242-3, 2250-4; Sterling 2249.

Advertising/publicity, Hydro

Caplan 2244-5; Warner 2244-5.

Advisory groups/councils

Gigantes 3948; I.G. Scott 3905, 3948.

Aerial spraying (*see* Pesticides/herbicides)

Affirmative action program, women (*see* Women's equal opportunity/program)

Affirmative action programs

Caplan 2005; Gillies R585-7; Grande 1974, G347-8; Mackenzie R588; Munro 1974, G295, G348; Purcell R586-7; Wrye R586-8.

Age, retirement

Gillies R497, R592-3; Mackenzie R514; Ramsay R593; A.D. Wolfson R593-4; Wrye 2729-30, R592-4.

Aged, community support/ services (*see* Community Support/ services, aged)

Aged, health care

Bernier 328; Cousens 1676; G.H. Dean 923, G226-8; Dyer G227-8; Elston 1676, G227; Kealey G226-7; Laughren 328; McLean 1009; Van Horne 328; Wildman 328.

Aged, homes for

Brandt 3133; D.S. Cooke 3133; Cousens 1305; Eves 34; R.F. Johnston 3133; R.F. Nixon 1305; Sweeney 3133-4; Warner 34.

Aged/senior citizens

Callahan 1195; D.R. Cooke 227; D.S. Cooke G43-4, G48; Cordiano 212-3; Cousens 1003-4, 1310; Curling 1347; Davis 346, 431, 1346-7; G.H. Dean 1219, 2570-1, G170-1; Elston G29, G48, G170-1; Eves 213, 1172; Fontaine 3899; Grier 109-10; Henderson 196; McCague 1115; McFadden 231-2; Munro 1152; R.F. Nixon 1057, 1310; O'Connor 44; Peterson 407; Shymko 114; E.J. Smith 268; Van Horne 751; Warner 262, 1209-11.

Agencies/boards/commisions review

Breaugh 797-8.

Agencies/boards/commissions, re

Epp G311-2; Munro G312; R.F. Nixon 1555; Van Horne 166-7.

Agricultural energy/management

Kerrio R658.

Agricultural extension services

P. Fleming R400; Hoag R399-400; Rennie R399; Riddell R399; Stevenson R399-400.

Agricultural representatives (*see* Agricultural extension services)

Agriculture (*see* Farming)

Agriculture and Food Ministry/ personnel

Burak R303, R353, R355; Ramsay R355; Rennie R402; Riddell 3706; D.W. Smith R353; Stevenson 1180-1, 3706; Toivonen R402; Villeneuve R402.

AIDS/patients

Elston 833-4, G33.

Air ambulance service (*see* Ambulances, air)

Air-India disaster

F.S. Miller 403; Peterson 403; Rae 403.

Air passenger service

Fontaine 2180; Morin-Strom 1000; Pierce 2179-80.

Aircraft, forest firefighting

Fontaine 3266.

Aircraft, Ontario government

Bernier 653, 2119; Fontaine 642-3, 653, 2119, 3723; Pierce 2118-9; Pouliot 2119; Wildman 3723.

Aircraft, STOL/VTOL

Fontaine 3266.

Airport limousine service (*see* Taxicabs/drivers)

Airports/airstrips

Fontaine 3262.

Alcohol, industrial (*see* Gasoline/ oil substitutes/conversion kits)

Alcohol abuse/addiction

Elston 2348-9; Swart 2603-5.

Alcohol and youth

Kwinter 2534-5, 2706; Swart 2535; Turner 2534-5.

Alcoholic beverages (*see* Liquor/ beer/wine)

Alcoholics, rehabilitation

Elston G123-4, G252-3; Villeneuve G123-4, G252-3.

Aldermen (*see* Municipal councils/councillors)

Alimony/support payments

Pope 24.

Allied Heat Treat Ltd.

Gillies 1822; Martel 1606-7, 1821-2, R562-3, R613; Wrye 1606-7, R562-5, R613.

Alternative fuel program (*see* Gasoline/oil substitutes/ conversion kits)

Alzheimer's disease

G.H. Dean 3907; Van Horne 3546.

Amalgamation/annexation, municipal

Brandt R818; Grandmaître 1544, R825.

Ambulances, air

Bernier 3925; Dyer G120; Elston 653, G31, G46, G120; Fontaine 586; Pope G120; Psutka G136-7; Wildman 586.

Ambulances/services

Brand G213-6, G218-20, G225-6, G228; Dyer G224-6; Elston G167, G213, G215, G223-4; Guindon G228; Hennessy G217-8; Martel 3307; McCague G169, G224-6; McKessock G143, G168; Poirier G167; Pope G216; Pouliot G168-9; Psutka G141, G143, G165-9; Swart G212-20, G223-4; Turner G167-8; Wrye 3307.

Amendments, budget speech motion

McCague 1121-2.

Amendments, confidence motions

F.S. Miller 483.

Amendments, reasoned

Grossman 4029, 4032.

Amendments, throne speech motion

Peterson 74, 392; Rae 83, 392.

American Motors Corp.-Renault

Bennett 1778-9; Foulds 1779; O'Neil 1778-9.

Amusement rides

Ashe 3204-5; Barlow 3073; J.M. Johnson 3072-3; Kwinter 2708-9, 3067-8, 3073-6; Offer 3071-2; Runciman 3068-9; Swart 3069-71.

A and P food stores

Kwinter 3707.

Animals, domestic

Wildman 1786.

Animals, research

Philip 330; Rennie R393-4; D.W. Smith R394; Stevenson R392-3.

Annexation (*see* Amalgamation/ annexation, municipal)

Answers to oral questions, re

Bradley 4010-1; Gregory 3850; Grier 4010-1; O'Neil 2047-8; Swart 1108.

Answers to questions on notice paper

522, 926, 1325, 1541, 1757, 1974, 2216, 2445, 2721, 2960, 3223, 3459, 3705, 3930, 4098.

Answers to questions on notice paper, re

Grande 1242.

Anti-inflation (*see* Inflation)

Apartment conversions (*see* Rental apartment conversions)

Appointments to agencies, boards, commissions, etc.

Board of Internal Economy 2226; Board of Internal Economy members 57, 493, 1129; Industrial disease standards panel 2187; Insurance industry review task force 2867; Midwifery task force 3373; Pay equity consultation panel 3370-1; Premier's business advisory committee on pay equity 3905; Premier's labour advisory committee on pay equity 3905; Workers' compensation appeals tribunal R106; Workers' compensation board R82.

Appointments to agencies, boards, commissions, etc., re

Andrewes 522-3; Barlow R83; Bernier 3241; D.S. Cooke 522; Curling 142-3; Eakins 3241, 3466-7; Fish 3947; Gillies 1599-60; Grande 1974; Kwinter 2740, 2805-6; Laughren R82-3; A.G. MacDonald R83; McFadden 3439-40; McKessock R83; F.S. Miller 31, 142-3, 213-4; Munro 1974; R.F. Nixon 214; Peterson 407, 1599-60; Rae 30-1, 213-4; Rowe 3466; Runciman 2740, 2805; I.G. Scott 3947-8; Sorbara 2585, 3439-40.

Apprenticeship/program

Gillies 998; Mackenzie R612; Peterson 543; Sorbara 905, 3311, G433; Warner 263, 543, 905, 3311, G418-9.

Arbitrators/arbitration

Armstrong R610-1; Caplan 2205; Mackenzie 3686-7, R506, R610; Pathe R610; Stephenson 2009-10; Wrye 3687, R485-6, R610.

Architects/architecture

Andrewes 36, 98; D.S. Cooke 98; Sweeney 36, 98.

Architecture, faculty of, Toronto University

Bryden 3440, 3950, G369-70, G402; Grossman 3477; McFadden 3437, 3782, G366-7, G402; R.F. Nixon 3436-7; Peterson 3782, 3950; Rae 3436-7, 3477; Sorbara 3477, G378, G402-3.

Arenas (*see* Stadiums/arenas)

Ark Eden Nursing Home

Grossman 4071; McClellan 4070-1; Peterson 4071.

Arts council

Evans G322; Grande G326, G351; Haggerty G325; Leluk G323-4, G326-7; Marland G322-4; Munro G269-70, G326, G351; Pitman G321-7.

Arts/theatre

Grande G289; Marland G281.

Asbestos/asbestosis

Gillies 3686; Wrye 2459-60, 3059.

Assessment, farm

Stevenson R311.

Assessment, market value

Ashe 2038-9; G.H. Dean 220, 2030-2; Lupusella 345, 1748-9, 2032-5; Morin-Strom 1281; R.F. Nixon 1517, 2029-30, 2039-40; O'Connor 2036-8; Polsinelli 220.

Assessment appeals

Ashe 2965; Lupusella 1579.

Assessment/reassessment

Ashe 1793-5, 2965; G.H. Dean 648, 1575-6, 1803; Grande 1797-8; Lupusella 345, 458, 1429, 1744-5, 1748-51, 1800-2; R.F. Nixon 458, 641, 1424, 1570-4, 1754-5, 1790-2, 1794-803, 2458-9, 2965; Philip 1787-9, 1791; Rae 647-8; Reville 457-8, 648; Stevenson 1795-7; Villeneuve 1799-800.

Assistive devices/supplies, medical

D.S. Cooke 694, 1524-5, 1779-80, G40, G257; Elston 694, 1524-5, 1779-80, G46, G124-5, G257; Pope 694, G80; Villeneuve G50, G124-5.

Athletics (*see* Sports/athletics)

Atomic energy (*see* Energy, nuclear/atomic)

Attorney General, Ministry of

Breaugh 3137; Gigantes J29-30; R.F. Nixon 3137; O'Connor J12-3, J38; I.G. Scott J3, J29-30.

Attorneys General, re

I.G. Scott 2122.

Audit, forest resources management

Kerrio 898, 905-6, 1299-300, 2354; Laughren 905, 2354.

Auditor, provincial, re (*see* Provincial Auditor's Office/ personnel)

Auditors (*see* Accountants/ auditors)

Auto pact (*see* Automotive trade agreement)

Automotive trade agreement

Brandt 1339; Peterson 1338-9.

Autopsies/exhumations

Keyes 945, 1139-40; Reville 945, 1139.

Aviation (*see* Air passenger service)

Awards, foreign arbitral (*see* Foreign arbitral awards)

Bail/hearings

Cousens 284; McKessock 284.

Baker, William F.

Gigantes 541-2, 635; I.G. Scott 542, 635-6.

Balloting, private members' business

R.F. Nixon 3311.

Bankruptcies/forced closings, farm

F.S. Miller 141-2; Riddell 141-2, 1449-50.

Beach properties/shorelines

Brandt R852-3; E.M. Fleming R851; Fontaine 3901; Grandmaître 1781, 2722, 2807, R851-3; Harris 2426, 4068-9; Hayes 2425, 2807, 3378, R850-3; Hennessy 1781; Kerrio 2425-6, 3377-8, 4068-9; McGuigan R853; Pierce 3899, R852; Rae 3377; Wildman 1781, 2425-6.

Beef cattle financial protection program (*see* Farmers financial protection program)

Beer (*see* Liquor/beer/wine)

Beer/wine, grocery stores

Andrewes 584, 2197; Gillies 434; Gregory 1525; Kwinter 1137, 1544, 1742, 2197, 2535; R.F. Nixon 438; Peterson 411; Rae 1525, 2197; Riddell 584; Runciman 1137; I.G. Scott 1525, 3705; Shymko 2605-7; Sterling 3705; Swart 584, 1741-2, 2604; Turner 2535; Warner 2609.

BILD program

Burak R329; Caplan 1955; Conway 93; Foulds 93, 1955; Gillies 433; Girvin R1022; Morin-Strom R1021; O'Neil R1018; Stephenson 93; Sterling R1018; Ward 258.

Bilingual services, courts

I.G. Scott J9.

Bilingual services, government

Allen R972; Eakins T11, T29; P. Fleming R401-2; Grandmaître 2115-6, 4011, R956-8, R964-9, R972; Grossman 3941-2; Guindon 2115, 3915, 4011, G438, R955, R959, R965, R968-9, R973; Poirier G27; Pouliot 533, 2116, R955, R962-3, R966-7, R974, T12; Shymko R955-6; Sorbara 3915, 3942, G438; Sweeney 1739; Villeneuve 1738-9, R401-2.

Bilingual services, legislature

McClellan 3915; Pouliot 786.

Bilingualism/biculturalism

Allen R972; Baetz 502-3; Grandmaître R964, R971-3; F.S. Miller 389-90; Munro G295; Peterson 502-3; Poirier 342-3; Pouliot R974; Rae 503; Shymko R970-1.

Bilinguisme/biculturalisme

Shymko 118.

Bill of rights (*see* Charter of rights)

Bills, carried over to next session (*see* Business of the House carried over to next session)

Bills, government, re

Allen 2990; Bradley 844-5; Brandt 844; G.H. Dean 2990; Grandmaître 2990; F.S. Miller 1231-2; R.F. Nixon 2599-600; Peterson 1231-2; Rae 1232.

Bills, private, re

R.F. Nixon 466, 588, 1529.

Bills, proclamation of, re

Bradley 494, 1129; Gigantes 3207; O'Connor 3206-7; I.G. Scott 3206-7; Sweeney 1230; Warner 3206.

Bills, referred to committee, re

Elston 2703-4; Harris 1696; McClellan 3401; R.F. Nixon 1529, 2879, 3401, 3918; Pierce 1696; Sterling 3401; Timbrell 2703-4.

Bills/sections, withdrawal of

R.F. Nixon 1171; Van Horne 465.

Biomass energy (*see* Energy, renewable)

Blood transfusions/donors

Elston 833-4, 1388; Warner 1388.

Board, film review

Kwinter 2740, 2805-6; Runciman 2740, 2805.

Board, Industrial Leadership and Development (*see* BILD program)

Board, internal economy

Breaugh 1921-2; Mancini 1927-8; Newman 1934-5.

Boarding homes, handicapped (*see* Group homes)

Boarding homes, psychiatric patients (*see* Group homes)

Boards/commissions, re (*see* Agencies/boards/commissions, re)

Boards/commissions review (*see* Agencies/boards/commisions review)

Boards of education (*see* School boards)

Boards of health (*see* Health boards)

Boating

Fontaine 3899-900; Pierce 3898.

Bonds, Ontario Hydro

McCague 914.

Book publishers (*see* Publishers, Canadian)

Borrowing, Hydro

Andrewes 3846-7; Charlton 3847; Kerrio 3846-7; Kwinter 281; Stephenson 281.

Borrowing, pension funds

Andrewes 2642-3; Foulds 2643; Grossman 1983-4; R.F. Nixon 1983-4, 2642-3.

Borrowing, provincial

Andrewes 2021-5; Foulds 2025-7, 2761; Grossman 1983-4; McFadden 2759-61; R.F. Nixon 1983-4, 2021, 2761-2; Partington 2027-9; Rae 688.

Bottles (*see* Containers, food/liquid)

Boundary lines

Brandt R818; Grandmaître R825.

Branch plants (*see* Industries, foreign/control)

Bruce Energy Centre

Cousens 317-8, 365-6; Elston 365-6.

Brussels/Paris offices, Ontario government (*see* Foreign service offices, Ontario government)

Budget, federal, re

Foulds 29; F.S. Miller 28-9; R.F. Nixon 29; Peterson 28.

Budget, provincial, re

Andrewes 4088-91; Breaugh 1186-7, 1920; Harris 1131-2; Knight 1192; McCague 913-7; F.S. Miller 1097-9; R.F. Nixon 684-5, 786, 1010-1, 1131-4; Peterson 1097-9, 4093-5; Rae 1131-4.

Budget address

R.F. Nixon 1053-61.

Budget debate

Allen 1292-4, 1311-5; Andrewes 4088-91; Brandt 1271-9; Breaugh 1183-90; Callahan 1194-6; Cordiano 1356-8; G.H. Dean 1218-23; Eves 1171-3; Ferraro 1315-6; Foulds 1141-9; Grandmaître 1223-4; Knight 1190-2; Mackenzie 1367-71; Martel 1319-24; McCague 1109-21; McLean 1316-9; Morin-Strom 1279-85; Munro 1149-54; Peterson 4091-5; Philip 1348-56; Pierce 1287-92; Poirier 1215-8; Rae 4085-8; Ramsay 1173-6; Sargent 1176-8; Sheppard 1192-3; Shymko 1359-67; E.J. Smith 1285-7; Stevenson 1178-83; Warner 1196-8, 1203-15.

Budgets, Ministry (*see* Ministry spending/budgets)

Building demolition

Curling 1948-9; Grandmaître 2595-6, 4009, R814; McClellan 1948, 2595; McFadden 1948, 2464-5, 2595-6, 4009; Reville 4009.

Building/housing repairs/renovations

Pitura R900.

Building standards for handicapped (*see* Handicapped, facilities for)

Buildings, Ontario government

Archer A11; Ashe 1999; Caplan 1958-, 1998, 2002-4; Philip 1964, 1998-9, 2202-3, A11.

Bursaries/scholarships

Sorbara 3122.

Buses, school

Martel 2237.

Business corporations (*see* Corporations/incorporation)

Business hours/days

Davis 2299; Epp 2298-9; Keyes 2930-1; I.G. Scott 2298-9; Sterling 2930-1; Swart 2299; Warner 2930-1.

Business of the House carried over to next session

R.F. Nixon 4076.

Businesses, new (*see* Industries/businesses, new/expanded)

Businesses, retail

O'Neil R1013; Sterling R1012-3.

Businesses, small

Barlow R992-4, R1020; Brandt 1103, 1272; Girvin R1020; Marland 49; Morin-Strom R1001-2, R1019; Munro 1154; R.F. Nixon 1103; O'Connor 41; O'Neil R985-6, R1011, R1019-20; J.A. Taylor R1016, R1020.

CAAT (*see* Colleges of applied arts and technology)

Cabinet/management board/personnel

Caplan 2004-5, 2213-5, 2245-7, 2721; Gillies 2246-7; Peterson 4099; Philip 2199-203, 2245-7; Sheppard 4099; Stephenson 2212-4, 2246, 2721.

Cadillac Fairview Corp.

Grandmaître 1049-50; Kwinter 940-1; McClellan 940; Philip 1049; Runciman 940; Shymko 1049-50.

Caisses populaires (*see* Credit unions/caisses populaires)

Can-Car Rail Inc.

Foulds 845-6; Fulton 2731-2; Grossman 2731; Hennessy 846; Peterson 845-6, 904.

Canada Games

Eakins 933.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Breaugh 2878; Gillies 1812, 1817; McClellan 1812; Peterson 1812, 1816-7; Rae 1812, 1816-7; Reville 1811-2.

Cancer/patients

Elston 682, 3382, 4003; Fontaine 3132-3, 3555; Gordon 3132-3, 3382, 3555; Martel 3381-2; Rae 4003.

Candidates, political

Peterson 3380; Timbrell 3379-80.

Capital aid corporations

Andrewes 2642-3; Foulds 2643; R.F. Nixon 2642-3.

Carcinogens (*see* Cancer/patients)

Career action program (*see* Retraining programs)

Cartels (*see* Monopolies/cartels)

CAT scanners, diagnostic

Andrewes 371; Knight 371.

Ceci's Child Care Inc.

R.F. Johnston 3223; Sweeney 3223.

Censor board (*see* Board, film review)

Censorship

Grande G351.

Censorship, films/videotapes

Grossman 544; Haggerty G325; Kwinter 500-1, 537, 543-4, 1544; Leluk G323-4; Marland 500-1, 537, 544, G280, G323-4; F.S. Miller 537, 543; Pitman G323-7.

Certificates, academic (*see* Diplomas/certificates)

Certification, union (*see* Union certification/first contract)

Chain stores (*see* Supermarkets/chain stores)

Chairmen's rulings/comments

Amendment motion, re 1079-80.

Change of name

Fish 2913-4; Foulds 2922; Gigantes 2910-1, 2921; Morin-Strom 2922; O'Connor 2907-10, 2919; Partington 2911-2; I.G. Scott 2907, 2918-23; Warner 2912-3, 2923-4.

Charities (*see* Fund raising/organizations)

Charter of rights

Bryden 1035-6; Gigantes 1035, 1085-6; Haggerty 1086-7; Lupusella 1087;

McClellan 1086; O'Connor 1035, 1086; Pope 138-41; I.G. Scott 1034-6, 1087-8.

Chemical spillage/leakage (*see* Spillage/leakage, hazardous products/waste)

Chemicals, noxious/hazardous

Fish 99; Munro 99.

Cheques, NSF

Fulton 2964-5; Gregory 2964.

Child care/welfare

McCague 1116; Rae 4088; Shymko 119; Sweeney 1230.

Child pornography (*see* Pornography/obscenity)

Child support payments (*see* Family law orders)

Childbirth/obstetrics

D.S. Cooke G37, G88-9; Elston G88-9, G236.

Children, abducted/missing

Fish 1476-7; Henderson 1478-80; Marland 1480-1; McGuigan 1473-6, 1481-2; R.F. Nixon 1743; Ramsay 1477-8.

Children, abused/battered

Sweeney 573-5.

Children, adopted, records

Baetz 2375-7; Cousens 2371-2; R.F. Johnston 2372-3; Knight 2378-9; Offer 2374-5; Ramsay 2377-8; Sweeney 1946; Ward 2369-71, 2379-80.

Children, custody of

Gigantes 1089; O'Connor 1089; Pope 209; I.G. Scott 1088-90; Warner 1089-90.

Children, delinquent (*see* Offenders, young)

Children, developmentally handicapped (*see* Children, retarded)

Children, disturbed/mentally ill

Sweeney 2195-6; Wildman 2195.

Children, exceptional

Allen 691, 757; Conway 691-2, 757; Cousens 691; Rae 756-7; Timbrell 757.

Children, handicapped, facilities for (*see* Handicapped, facilities for)

Children, learning disabled (*see* Children, exceptional)

Children, legal counsel (*see* Children's rights/law)

Children, mentally ill (*see* Children, disturbed/mentally ill)

Children, retarded

Eves 285; R.F. Johnston 285.

Children's Aid Society, Kenora-Patricia

R.F. Johnston 2232-3, 2288; Sweeney 2232-3.

Children's Aid Society, Ottawa-Carleton

Baetz 3553-4; Sweeney 3553-4.

Children's group homes (*see* Group homes)

Children's maintenance/orders (*see* Family law orders)

Children's residential services (*see* Group homes)

Children's rights/law

Gigantes 216, 2916-8; O'Connor 2916; Pope 208-10, 216; I.G. Scott 2917-8.

Children's services (*see* Child care/welfare)

Chiropractors/osteopaths

Harris 3991.

Chrysler Canada Ltd.

D.S. Cooke 3307-8; Peterson 3308.

Churches/religious groups

Riddell 3723; Stevenson 3723.

Cigarette smoking (*see* Smoking, tobacco)

Circular 14/15, education
Conway 4009-10; Davis 4010; Grande 4009-10.

Citizens' complaints against police (*see* Police complaint procedures)

Citizens' inquiry branch (*see* Information services, government)

Citizenship and Culture Ministry/ personnel
Grande G282; Leluk G342; Marland G279; Ruprecht G342.

Civil/political rights
Cousens 3997; Gillies 1822; Grossman 3998; Mackenzie 1368-9; Martel 1821-2; R.F. Nixon 3998-9; Peterson 3997; Philip 3917; Rae 3997; I.G. Scott 1822; Wrye 2291.

Civil servants, unclassified
Caplan 2005, 2240, 3480, 3839-40; Mackenzie 3480; Philip 2200-2; Stephenson 2009.

Civil servants/Crown employees
Ashe 2254-5; Caplan 1757, 1761, 2204-5, 2254-5; Grande 1757, G291-2; Grandmaître R968; Grossman 337; Guindon R968; Jackson 194; Mackenzie 1761; Stephenson 2204-5, 2254; Wrye 1594-7.

Civil servants' merit pay
Caplan 2248-9; Philip 2248-9; Stephenson 2249.

Civil servants' political activity/ rights
Breaugh 3204; Caplan 2424-5; Mackenzie 2536-7; Philip 2424-5; Rae 689-90; I.G. Scott 690-1, 2979.

Civil Service Commission
Caplan 2007; Stephenson 2007-9, 2012.

Clerk, legislative/office of
Lewis G8-9; E.J. Smith G9.

Clerks, legislative
Epp G9; Lewis G8-9.

Clinics, animal (*see* Veterinarians/ services)

Closure, legislative (*see* Time allocation motions/resolutions)

Cogeneration (*see* Hydro co-generation)

Coke oven emissions
Mackenzie 168-9.

Collective bargaining
R.G. Elgie 160; Sorbara G380.

College of Nurses
Elston 4073.

Colleges (*see* Universities/ colleges)

Colleges of agriculture (*see* Schools, agriculture)

Colleges of applied arts and technology
Bossy G443-4; Bryden 2468, G371; Cordiano 1357; Sorbara 2468, 2585, G359, G413-4, G432, G444, G450; Warner G421-2, G450.

Colleges of art (*see* Schools, art)

Combines, corporate (*see* Monopolies/cartels)

Commission, election contributions and expenses
Edighoffer G3.

Commission, human rights (*see* Human rights code/commission)

Commission, manpower
Sorbara G411, G432.

Commission, Northern Environment
Bernier 2955; Fontaine 1665-6, 1670, 3265, 3880, 3900-1; Foulds 332; Pierce 3899; Wildman 923-5, 1669-70, 3254.

Commission, police complaints (*see* Police complaint procedures)

Commission, private schools

Conway 1445.

Commission, race relations

Armstrong R542; G.A. Brown R590; Gillies 1599-60, R494-5, R540-3; Mackenzie R543, R588; Peterson 1599-60; Polsinelli R542; Wrye R539-43.

Commission, rent review study

Curling 2466; McClellan 2466.

Commission, Residential Tenancy

Lesurf R923-4; McClellan R950.

Commission, universities' future role

Sorbara G379.

Commission, wage protection inquiry

Gillies R499-500; Wrye 1770-1, R488.

Commissions, royal, re

Grossman 321-3; R.F. Nixon 322; Rae 321-3.

Commissions review (*see* Agencies/boards/commisions review)

Committee, agencies/boards/ commissions review (*see* Committee, procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions)

Committee, appointments

Peterson 407.

Committee, energy

Kerrio R683; R.F. Nixon 695.

Committee, environmental assessment

Fish 283-4; Rae 283-4.

Committee, Hydro affairs, re

Charlton 200; R.F. Nixon 656.

Committee, justice administration

R.F. Nixon 1568.

Committee, northern development

Fontaine 2942, 3263, 3879-80; Wildman 3259-60.

Committee, procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions

Peterson 407.

Committee, race relations

I.G. Scott J10.

Committee, social development

Education amendment act (Bill 30) S3-25, S29-55, S59-82, S85-114, S117-37, S141-60, S163-200, S203-23, S227-57, S261-79, S283-92, S295-334, S337-59, S363-97, S401-23, S427-54, S457-89, S493-510, S513-35, S539-78, S581-99, S603-35, S639-61, S665-84, S687-727, S731-61, S765-801, S805-20, S823-38, S841-69, S873-98, S901-33, S937-56, S959-81, S985-1011, S1015-31, S1035-63, S1067-104, S1107-34, S1137-63, S1167-93, S1197-234, S1237-58, S1261-87, S1291-316, S1319-44, S1347-61, S1365-94, S1397-418, S1421-44, S1447-81, S1485-503, S1507-39, S1543-62, S1565-94, S1597-622, S1625-40, S1643-74, S1677-96, S1699-712, S1715-32, S1735-66, S1769-92, S1795-2155, S1823-34, S1837-56, S1859-82, S1885-900, S1903-20, S1923-47, S1951-64, S1967-96, S1999-2019, S2023-37, S2041-58, S2061-79, S2083-104, S2107-16, S2119-34, S2137, S2159-96, S2199-213, S2217-30, S2233-53, S2257-72, S2289-98, S2301-21, S2325-39.

Committee members/substitution, select

Breaugh 2878; R.F. Nixon 912, 1109, 4083; Peterson 2808.

Committee members/substitution, standing

Breaugh 2878; R.F. Nixon 465, 653, 911-2, 987, 1109, 4083; Peterson 2808.

Committee reports, re

R.F. Nixon 765-6.

Committee system, proposed

Breaugh 1921; Newman 1935; Treleaven 1929.

Committees, community industrial training

Sorbara G411, G444.

Committees, occupational health and safety

Martel 3557; Wrye 3557.

Committees, re

Breaugh 656-7; Curling R920-2, R945; Gordon R922; Grossman 657; Martel 655; McGuigan R922; R.F. Nixon 654-6, 659, 695-6, 766, 2198-9; Peterson 407, 409; Pierce R920-2, R944-5; J.A. Taylor R920-2.

Committees, regional economic development

Bernier 1820; Fontaine 1820; Ramsay 1820.

Committees, select/standing, lists of members

658.

Committees, select/standing, members (*see* Committee members/substitution, standing) (*see* Committee members/substitution, select)

Committees, standing, re

R.F. Johnston 1676; R.F. Nixon 465, 546, 588, 798, 2536, 3385.

Committees during recess, re

Breaugh 656-7; R.F. Nixon 655-6, 695-6, 4082-3.

Communications/services

Gillies 433.

Community and Social Services Ministry/personnel

Eves 418-9; Ramsay 418; Sweeney 418-9.

Community colleges (*see* Colleges of applied arts and technology)

Community/cultural centres

Grossman 3049-50; Kwinter 3049-50; Rae 3049-50.

Community health centres (*see* Health service organizations)

Community improvement projects

Grandmaître R814-5.

Community information centres (*see* Information services, community)

Community planning/programs

Bauman R840-1; Brandt R845-50; Breaugh R842-3; Farrow R843-4, R848-50; Grandmaître R841-6; Ramsay R84; Stevenson R849; J.A. Taylor R84, R841-2.

Community residential care services, adults (*see* Group homes)

Community Support/services, aged

Van Horne 3544-6.

Community treatment, mental health (*see* Mental health, community treatment)

Commuters/services

Charlton 198; Jackson 193-4; Ward 257.

Compensation, crime victims

O'Connor J38; I.G. Scott J10-1.

Compensation, Indian bands/people

Pouliot 794; I.G. Scott 794-5, 1770; Sterling 794; Wildman 925.

Compensation, workers (*see* Workers' compensation/board)

Computer research institute, Waterloo University

R.F. Nixon 1057.

Computer-aided design/manufacturing/technology centre

Bossy G444; Sorbara G444-5.

Computerized checkout systems (*see* Pricing, commodity)

Computers/microcomputers

Barlow R989; Caplan 1960, 1969; G.H. Dean 1575; Epp G12-3; Gillies G439; Grande G349-50; Gregory G12-3; Grossman 337; Mitchinson G12-3; Munro G272, G349-50; R.F. Nixon 1057, 1570-1, 1752; O'Neil R1007; Philip 1969; Sorbara G439-40; Villeneuve 1962; Warner G439-40; W.G. Wolfson G440.

Concurrence in supply

Agriculture and Food 4076; Attorney General 4076; Cabinet Office 4076; Chief Election Officer 4076; Citizenship and Culture 4076; Colleges and Universities 4076; Community and Social Services 4076; Consumer and Commercial Relations 4076; Correctional Services 4076; Education 4076; Energy 4076; Environment 4076; Francophone Affairs 4076; Government Services 4076; Health 4076; Housing 4076; Industry, Trade and Technology 4076; Intergovernmental Affairs 4076; Justice Secretariat 4076; Labour 4076; Lieutenant Governor 4076; Management Board 4076; Municipal Affairs 4076; Natural Resources 4076; Northern Development and Mines 4076; Office of the Assembly 4076; Ombudsman 4076; Premier's Office 4076; Provincial Auditor 4076; Resources Development Secretariat 4076; Revenue 4076; Skills Development 4076; Social Development Secretariat 4076; Solicitor General 4076; Tourism and Recreation 4076; Transportation and Communications 4076; Treasury and Economics 4076.

Condominiums (*see* Housing, condominium)

Condominiums, conversion to (*see* Rental apartment conversions)

Conferences, first ministers

Grossman 1980; Peterson 1979-80.

Conferences, housing ministers

Curling 750-1.

Conferences/seminars

Bernier 2216.

Confidence motions

Peterson 466.

Confidence motions, re

Ashe 466-8; Breaugh 476-9, 1922; Callahan 473-5; Martel 468-73; F.S. Miller 480-3, 1231-2; Newman 1935; R.F. Nixon 485-6; Peterson 1231-2; Rae 484, 1232; Rowe 475-6; D.W. Smith 479-80; Treleaven 1929.

Confidence motions, votes

Peterson 486.

Conflict of interest

Andrewes 98; D.S. Cooke 98; Fontaine 3615; Gillies 3682, 3688-9, 3719-21; Grossman 3623-5; Harris 3625-6; Kerrio 3548-9, 3719-22; Kwinter 3706-7; Laughren 3686; McCague 3684; O'Neil 1667-8; Peterson 1667, 3548, 3619, 3621-7, 3682, 3684-6, 3688-9; Pope 3686; Rae 1667; Runciman 1666-8, 3547-8, 3618-9, 3706; Sweeney 98; Timbrell 3621-2; Villeneuve 1961; Wildman 3719.

Conservation officers/game wardens

Harris 3949; Kerrio 3949-50; Pouliot 3949.

Consolidated hearings, environmental (*see* Environmental hearings)

Consortiums

Peterson 2533-4; Philip 2533-4.

Constituency offices/assistants

Gregory G11, G19-20; McClellan G19; J. Robinson G11; Schoenberger G11; E.J. Smith G11, G19-20.

Construction, highways/roads

Fulton 3705; McCague 216-7, 3705; Sterling 216-7; Ward 257.

Construction, housing

G. Church R877, R930-2; Cornell R877; Curling 792-3, 900, 2469, 2531-3, R876, R887, R931; Gordon 2469, 2531-3, R865-70; McClellan 793, 938, 2533, R876; McGuigan R943; R.F. Nixon 937-8, 1165-6; Timbrell 792-3, 900, 937-8, 1165, R930-2.

Consultants/services

Caplan 2207-9; Partington G446; Philip 2014, 2208-9; Sorbara G446; Stephenson 2011.

Consumer and Commercial Relations Ministry/personnel

Runciman 2721.

Consumer counselling/ information

Charlton R682; Rennie R305; Waterfield R727.

Consumer prices

Morin-Strom 999.

Consumer protection

Runciman 134, 326; Swart 326.

Containers, food/liquid

G.H. Dean 906; Peterson 906.

Contracting-out practice

Wrye R486.

Contracts, government

Burak R471-2; Caplan 2586, 2722; Eakins 2114, 2586-7, 2967-9; Laughren 3690-1; G.I. Miller R471; Peterson 3690-1; Rae 2114; Rowe 2967-8.

Contracts, international business

I.G. Scott 2879.

Contracts, transportation/ equipment

Foulds 373-5; McCague 374; Stephenson 373-5.

Convention centres (*see* Trade/ convention centres)

Coroners/inquests

D.S. Cooke 462-3, G204, G238-40; Elston G204-5, G239; Martel R630-1; McCague G239; Pope 463, G205; I.G. Scott 463; Wrye R630-1.

Corporations, foreign control (*see* Industries, foreign/control)

Corporations/incorporation

Kwinter 1823-4.

Correctional institutions

Cousens 317-8, 365-6; Elston 365-6; Martel 366; Reville 230.

Cost of living (*see* Consumer prices)

Cottage lots

Fontaine 3900.

Council, Franco-Ontarian affairs

Grandmaître R958, R965, R973; Gueguen-Charon R973-4; Shymko R973-4.

Council, multiculturalism and citizenship advisory

Leluk G338-9; Munro G339.

Counselling services, unemployed

Gillies 318-9, 1460, G425; Mackenzie 1460; Sorbara 1460-1, G432-3; Warner G420-1; Wrye 749.

Counselling services, youth employment

Sorbara G410, G429-30, G433, G436.

Courier services

O'Neil 945; Sheppard 945.

Court clerks/officers

O'Connor 2235; Ramsay 2234-5; I.G. Scott 2235.

Court facilities (*see* Courthouses/ court facilities)

Court judgements/orders

Fish 2052; Gillies 2933-4, 3234-5, 3360-1, 3378, 3428-9, 3907-8, 3946; O'Connor 2117, 2358-9; Rae 3235, 3946; I.G. Scott 2052, 2117, 2358-9, 2933-4, 3234-5, 3361-2, 3378, 3429, 3907-8, 3946-7.

Court registrars

Sargent 325; Stephenson 325-6.

Court services, French language (*see* Bilingual services, courts)

Courthouses/court facilities

Caplan 2002; D.S. Cooke 2234; O'Connor 2234; I.G. Scott 2234; Wiseman 2001.

Courts, bilingual (*see* Bilingual services, courts)

Courts, civil/civil division

O'Connor 2235, J17; I.G. Scott 2235.

Courts, small claims (*see* Courts, civil/civil division)

Cow-calf operators (*see* Farming, beef)

Credit rating

Ashe 467; Brandt 1272; Foulds 689; Grossman 688, 935-6; Kwinter 280-1; McCague 916, 1121; F.S. Miller 389, 763-4, 1232-3, 1556-7; Munro 1151; R.F. Nixon 683-4, 687-9, 763-4, 935-7, 1061, 1232-3; Peterson 408, 1556-7; Rae 687-8, 764, 1556-7; Stephenson 280-1; Villeneuve 991.

Credit unions/caisses populaires

Mackenzie 992-3.

Crime, organized

R.F. Nixon 60; Pope 60.

Crime Prevention Week

Keyes 1297-8.

Crime victims

Pope 2196; I.G. Scott 2196.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

I.G. Scott J39.

Crisis centres, rape (*see* Sexual assault crisis centres)

Crop improvement (*see* Soil/crop management)

Crown attorneys

O'Connor J13, J53-5; I.G. Scott J54-5.

Crown corporations/agencies

Bernier T74; Brandt 903; Eakins T74; Fontaine 3978-9; Foulds 903-4, 1005; Hennessy 1007; Munro 2628-9; R.F. Nixon 1054-5, 1060; Peterson 409, 902-4, 3467-8; Philip 1348-50, 2202; Rae 902-3; Sterling 3467; Wildman 3973-4.

Crown employees (*see* Civil servants/Crown employees)

CT scanners (*see* CAT scanners, diagnostic)

Cultural development (*see* Development, cultural)

Cultural/scientific exchanges

Munro G271.

Dairy Herd Improvement Corp.

Riddell 1543; Treleaven 1543.

Darlington generating station

Andrewes 2302, 2351; T. Campbell R735, R742-3; Charlton 2467, R679-80; Cureatz 415, 2467; Gordon R742-3; Kerrio R653; Peterson 415-6, 2351, 2467; Rae 414-6, 2350-1.

Data processing (*see* Computers/ microcomputers)

Day care, Queen's Park

Caplan 983-5, 1960; R.F. Johnston 983-5.

Day care/centres

Eves 1139, 1172; R.F. Johnston 1138; Knight 1192; F.S. Miller 481; Munro 306, 1152; R.F. Nixon 1057; Poirier 1217; Shymko 1364; Sweeney 1138-9.

Daylight saving

Barlow 2364-5, 2427; Cordiano 2366; Epp 2363-4; McClellan 1053, 2361-3, 2368-9; R.F. Nixon 1568; Philip 2365-6; D.W. Smith 2368; Turner 2367-8.

Deaths (*see* Fatalities/deaths) (*see* Workers, fatalities)

Debates re answers to oral questions

Andrewes 2859; Baetz 2339; Gigantes 634-5, 2411-2; Gillies 3360, 3428; Gordon 744-5; Hennessy 1439; Laughren 3609; Morin-Strom 1438; O'Connor 2690; Pierce 2179, 2410-1; Pope 2337; Swart 2180; Warner 636-7.

Debates re urgent public matters

de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. 2125; Extendicare London Nursing Home 949; Water quality 3630; Wellington county teachers' strike 1610.

Debates re urgent public matters, re

Allen 1609-10; Bradley 3629; D.S. Cooke 947-8; Grier 3629; Harris 1608-9, 2123-4; Mancini 1927; Martel 1932; R.F. Nixon 948-9, 1610, 2124-5, 2879; Rae 2122-3; Timbrell 2879; Turner 948.

Débats en français

Grandmaître 350-1; Guindon 264-5, 670; F.S. Miller 389; Peterson 503; Poirier 340, 342-3, 669; Pope 209-10; Pouliot 533; Rae 503; Shymko 117-8.

Deerhurst Inn

Eakins 1129, T5, T53; Pouliot T13; Rowe T52.

Deficit, provincial

Brandt 1271-3; Jackson 194; McCague 916-7, 1112-3; F.S. Miller 388; Morin-Strom 1280; R.F. Nixon 764, 3776-7; Rae 764; Shymko 1360-1; Stephenson 91; Timbrell 3776-7.

Degrees (*see* University/college courses/degrees)

de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd.

Ashe 2136-7; Bennett 1776, 3467; Bernier 2140-1; Brandt 2145-6; Cordiano 2128-30; Cousens 2131-3; Epp 2481-2; Foulds 2480-1; Gillies 2126-8; Grossman 1982-3, 1985-6, 2047-50, 2110-3, 2191, 2296-7, 2473-80; Harris 2123-4; Mackenzie 1986, 2125-6, 2483-4; Mancini 2133-4, 2484-6; McClellan 1983-5, 2048-50; Morin-Strom 2048, 2134-6; R.F. Nixon 2124-5, 2490-2; Offer 2137-8; O'Neil 1982-3, 2047-8, 2110-3, 2141-3, 2190-1, 3467; Peterson 1775-7, 1984-6, 2048-50, 2296-7; Philip 2130-1; Rae 1775-6, 2110, 2112-3, 2122-3, 2143-5, 2190-1, 2296-7, 2486-90; Ramsay 2138-40.

Delivery service (*see* Courier services)

Demolition, building (*see* Building demolition)

Dental surgeons

Elston 4001-2; Grossman 4001-2.

Denticare

D.S. Cooke 3681; Elston 3681-2, G87; Eves 1171-2; Grossman 3681; R.F. Nixon 686; Pope G79, G87; Stephenson 686.

Dentist shortage (*see* Doctor/dentist shortage)

Dentists' fees

Elston 3681-2; Grossman 3680-1.

Denture therapists

Elston 3688; Swart 3688, 3692.

Depo-Provera

Andrewes 1733-4; Elston 1733-4; McClellan 1734.

Deposit insurance corp. (*see* Share and Deposit Insurance Corp.)

Deregulation of industry

Mackenzie 995.

Designated substances, toxic (*see* Hazardous products)

Development, cultural

Grande G282; Leluk 302, G347; Marland G280; Munro 1153, G266-7, G297-9, G347.

Development, eastern Ontario

Stephenson 285-6; Sterling 285.

Development, northern

Bernier 3248-9; Callahan 1194; Fontaine 975-6, 1665-6, 1671, 2940-8, 3977-80; Foulds 332, 1006, 1147-8; Gordon 1106-7, 1672; Hennessy 1008; Lane 3980-3; Laughren 921-2, 1106; Martel 1106, 1671-2; Morin-Strom 2738, R1002-5; R.F. Nixon 1057, 1106-7, 1672; O'Connor 42; O'Neil 2738; Peterson 410-1, 2874-5; Pierce 223-6, 1291; Pouliot 2874-5; Wildman 988-90, 3251, 3972-7.

Development, regional (*see* Regional development/councils)

Development, resource

Wildman 3252-3, 3260.

Development Corporation, Northern Ontario

Bernier 795, 1761; Fontaine 795-6, 1761, 3267, 3879, 3883, 3983; Foulds 428-9; Hennessy 1008; Lane 3981; Morin-Strom R1018, R1021-2; O'Neil R1018; Pierce 796; Ramsay 1174-5; Sorensen R1021; J.A. Taylor R1021-2; Wildman 796.

Development Corporation, Ontario

Gillies 434; Morin-Strom R996; O'Neil R982, R986.

Development corporations

Barlow R1015, R1022; Laughren R1022; Lavelle R1017; Morin-Strom R996, R1017; O'Neil R1015, R1017; Sterling R1016, R1018; J.A. Taylor R1015, R1018.

Diesel fuel (*see* Gasoline/motor fuels)

Dietitians/nutrition

Lupusella 1578-85; M. MacDonald R403-4; G.I. Miller R403.

Dikes (*see* Flooding/control)

Dioxin

Bernier 1240, 1563; Bossy 3649-51; Bradley 942-3, 1240-1, 1343-6, 1450-1, 1563, 3617-20, 3625-6, 3629-30, 3632-3, 3687-90; Brandt 942-3, 3626, 3637-9; Breaugh 3648-9; Charlton 3639-40; D.S. Cooke 942-3, 3626, 3643-5; Elston 3714-5; Fish 3620, 3633-5, 3687, 3690, 3714-5; Grier 942, 3618-20, 3625, 3629, 3687-9, 3714-5; Grossman 3617-8; Harris 3646-8; Hayes 3620, 3635; Mancini 3645-6; Pierce 1239-40, 1563; Pouliot 1240; Rae 3618-9; D.W. Smith 3640-2; Stevenson 3642-3; Wrye 3635-7.

Diplomas/certificates

Bryden 4013.

Disabled persons (*see* Handicapped/disabled persons)

Disaster/relief

Caplan 3680; Ediger R465; Epp 32-3; J.M. Johnson 504-5; Leluk 362; Mancini 153-4; McKessock 33; F.S. Miller 20, 941; R.F. Nixon 909, 941-2, 1309; Peterson 20-1, 504-5, 1554-5; Rae 21; Ramsay R465; Riddell R465; Rowe 909, 941-2, 1309; D.W. Smith R465; Stevenson 329; Sweeney 33-4; Timbrell 21-3; Van Horne 163.

Disclosure, adoptees records (*see* Children, adopted, records)

Disclosure, government documents/information

Bradley 2965, 3374-7; Breaugh 3136; Caplan 2005, 2203, 2247; Charlton 198-9, 3375; G.H. Dean 220, 3374-6; Fish 2965; Foulds 837; Fulton 3682; Gigantes 583, 3956-9; Gillies 2247, 3688-9; Grossman 535, 2629-30; Hayes 252; Laughren 3686; McCague 915, 3684; F.S. Miller 144-5; O'Connor 3959-63; O'Neil 145; Peterson 70, 406-7, 583, 837, 2629-31, 3682, 3684-6, 3688-9; Philip 2014; Polsinelli 219-20; Pope 3686; Rae 144-5, 2630; Reville 2629; I.G. Scott 753-5, 3952, 3959-64, J4-5; Stephenson 2007; Sterling 3952-6; Warner 926.

Discrimination

Bryden 1035-6; Gigantes 1035, 1085-6; Haggerty 1086-7; Lupusella 1087; McClellan 1086; O'Connor 1035, 1086; Pope 138-41; I.G. Scott 1034-6, 1087-8; Sterling 1036.

Discrimination, racial

Mackenzie R609; F.S. Miller 412-3; Peterson 412-3; Rae 412.

Dissatisfaction, oral questions (*see* Debates re answers to oral questions)

District municipalities (*see* Regional/district municipalities)

Division bells, re

Andrewes 3444; Grossman 657; Martel 657; R.F. Nixon 655-6.

Divisions, House

393, 486, 743, 762, 1437, 1509, 1696, 1726, 1844, 1871, 2312, 2380, 2492, 3158, 3400, 3730, 3872-3, 4032, 4055, 4095.

Doctor/dentist shortage

Dyer G118; Elston G116-8; Pope G80-1, G116-8; Wildman 3988.

Doctors, foreign/immigrant

D.S. Cooke G89-90; Elston G89-92, G116; Gordon G116; Hennessy G90-1; McKessock G91-2.

Doctors, licensing/accreditation

Dyer G92.

Doctors, opted out of OHIP

Allen 3417-22; Andrewes 3673-5, 3692-704, 3731-5; Baetz 4013-6; Barlow 3283-6; Bernier 3219-21, 3275-6; Brandt 1341; Breaugh 3211-9; Bryden 3276-8; Callahan 3423-7; D.S. Cooke 540, 792, 2635, 3098-105, 3683-4, 4062, G39-40, G248-9; Cousens 3524-39, 3585-600; Cureatz 3351-60; G.H. Dean 3407-17; Elston 539-40, 790-2, 1340-1, 2626-8, 2703-4, 3054-5, 3076-8, 3232-4, 3302-3, 3373-4, 3683-4, 3713-4, 3944-5, 4001-2, 4029-32, G31-2, G82-3, G87, G248-50, G258; Foulds 3821-5; Grande 3497-9; Gregory 3456-8, 3490-7; Grier 3349-51; Grossman 335, 496-7, 539-40, 791, 3232-4, 3301-3, 3713-4, 3840-1, 3942-4,

4001-2, 4023-9, 4062-3; Guindon 3507-9, 3515-6; Harris 3608-9, 3657-73; Henderson 3601-8; Jackson 3755-62; J.M. Johnson 3785-90; R.F. Johnston 3799-801; Lane 3278-9; Laughren 3453-6; Leluk 3762-9; Mackenzie 3341-4; Marland 3427, 3445-52; Martel 3790-4; McCaffrey 249; McCague 3806-9, 3815-21; McClellan 3516-20; McFadden 3520-4; McKessock G249-50; McLean 3393-9; F.S. Miller 94-6, 496; Morin-Strom 3399-400, 3407; R.F. Nixon 686; O'Connor 3211-5; Partington 3499-507; Peterson 407, 496-7, 2634-6, 3304-6, 3840-3, 3942-3, 4062-3, 4094; Philip 3279-83; Pierce 3801-4; Pollock 3804-6; Pope 694-5, 3054, 3078-86, 3091-8, 3684, 3842, G79, G86-7, G250, G258; Rae 94-6, 497, 790-1, 3054-5, 3233, 3302, 3304-6, 3374, 3840-2, 3943-5, 4016-23; Ramsay 1340-1, 3600-1; Reid G251; Rowe 3749-55; I.G. Scott 695; Sheppard 3794-9; Shymko 3105-16; Stephenson 686, 2634-5, 3825-36; Stevenson 3344-9; Sweeney 95-6; J.A. Taylor 3735-43; Timbrell 2703-4, 3373-4; Villeneuve 3290-6, 3339-41; Warner 3208-11; Wildman 3286-90.

Doctors, specialist

Elston 1769.

Doctors' fees/salaries

Caplan 2532-3; D.S. Cooke 2532, 3683-4; Elston 3683-4; Mackenzie 2532-3; Wrye 1674.

Doctors Hospital

D.S. Cooke G145-6; Elston 2970, G145-6; McClellan 2970; Reid G145.

Dogs (*see* Animals, domestic)

Dollar value/revaluation

Eakins T30, T33-4; McCall T34; R.F. Nixon 3776-7; Rae 3776; Timbrell 3776-7.

Domestic workers (*see* Workers, domestic)

Dominion food stores

Gillies 3549; Grossman 3478; R.F. Johnston 3380-1, 3478; Kwinter 3782, 4064-5; Mackenzie 3909; Morin-Strom 3782; R.F. Nixon 3945-6; Peterson 3381, 3478-9, 3547, 3549-50; Rae 3477-9, 3549, 3945-6, 4064-5; Wrye 3908-9.

Donations, human tissue (*see* Medical transplants)

Donations, political (*see* Political contributions)

Downtown development/ redevelopment

Boles R846-8; Brandt R845-8; Farrow R846; Grandmaître R846; G.I. Miller R847-8; J.A. Taylor R847.

Drainage/program

Hayes R424-5; J.R. Johnston R439-41; McGuigan R414-6, R419-20, R439; G.I. Miller R439-40; Ramsay R323-4, R405, R409-13, R416-20, R439, R441; Rennie R440; Riddell 586, R420-1, R439-41; D.W. Smith R414, R416, R418-9; South R413; Spencer R412-3, R416-8, R420; J.A. Taylor R415-6; Villeneuve 586, R440-1; Wiseman 586.

Drinking hours (*see* Business hours/days)

Drivers, drinking/impaired

Breaugh 2576-8; Callahan J51-2; D.R. Cooke J50; G.H. Dean 2600-2; Epp 364; Ferraro 365; Fish J21-2; Fulton 1516-7, 2573, 2610-1; Gigantes J20, J45-6, J55-6; Gillies 2423; Gregory 1525, 2573-4; Hayes 2574-5; Keyes 2423; Mackenzie 2610; Marland 2575-6; McCague 289; O'Connor 2357, 2578-9, J14-6, J53-5; Pope 364-5, 2609-10; Rae 1525; Sargent 2422-3; I.G. Scott 1515-6, 1525, 2357, J6-7, J21-2, J45-6, J50-7; Shymko 2605-8; Swart 2602-5; Warner 2608-9.

Drivers, suspended/disqualified

Breaugh 2576-8; D.R. Cooke J49-51; G.H. Dean 2602; Fulton 2573; Gigantes J46-8; Gregory 2573-4; Hayes 2574-5; Marland 2575-6; McCague 289; O'Connor 2578-9, J49; I.G. Scott J46-51; Shymko 2605.

Drivers, taxi (*see* Taxicabs/ drivers)

Dropouts, students

Bossy G443.

Drug abuse/addiction

Elston 2348.

Drug benefit plan (*see* Drugs, prescription, free)

Drug costs/purchasing

Andrewes 3042-4; Barlow 3032-26; Breaugh 2815-8; Burrows G55-63, G68; Callahan 2818-20; D.S. Cooke 2776-8,

3044-5, G60, G63-6, G74, G83; Cousens 2997-3015; Davis 3018-9; G.H. Dean G74; Dyer G60, G62, G69; Elston 1445-7, 1820-1, 2153-4, 3041-2, 3045-6, G32-3, G60-74, G82-6; Gillies 2845-56; Gregory 2992-7; Lane 2825-6; Laughren 3038-40; Leluk 2789-92, 2808-15; Mancini 2842-5; Marland 2826-9; McFadden 3040-1; McKessock G59-60; McLean 3025-8; Partington 3028-32; Pierce 2821-5; Pope 1820-1, 2154-78, G79, G83-6; Psutka G60-72; Runciman 3032-8; Sargent 1820; Sheppard 2820-1; Turner 2778-89; Villeneuve 2829-31, 2837-42, G69-71; Ward 3015-8; Wildman 2856-7, G59, G63, G71-4; Wiseman 2857-8, G61-3, G66-9, G84.

Drug trafficking/possession

R.F. Nixon 60; Pope 60.

Drugs, medical

Andrewes 1733-4; Elston 1733-4; McClellan 1734.

Drugs, prescription, free

Burrows G55-63; D.S. Cooke 2776-8, 3434, G60, G74, G83; G.H. Dean G74; Dyer G60; Elston 2153-4, 2447-8, G32, G60-74, G82-6; Leluk 2789-92; McKessock G59-60; Peterson 3433-5; Pope 2154-78, G79, G83-6; Psutka G60-72; Runciman 2447; Timbrell 3433-4; Turner 2778-89; Wildman G59; Wiseman G84.

Drugs, prescription, substitution

D.S. Cooke 3052, 3476; Elston 2981-2, 3051-3, 3122-4, 3231-2, 3237-8, 3371-2, 3476, 3717-8; Grossman 2981-2, 3051-2, 3193-4, 3237-8, 3475-7, 3717-8; Peterson 3193-4; Rae 2981.

Duracell Inc.

Martel 1956-7, 2356-7; Wrye 1956-7, 2356-7.

Duties (*see* Tariffs/duties)

Earthquakes (*see* Disaster/relief)

East of Bay project

Caplan 2001-2.

Economic Council, Ontario

Breaugh 1189-90.

Economic growth/decline

Andrewes 4090-1; D.R. Cooke 2388; R.G. Elgie 158-9; Fontaine 3892; Marland 46; Martel 3889-90; McCague 1121; McFadden 233; R.F. Nixon 683-5, 1055-6; O'Connor 40-2; O'Neil R981-2; Peterson 4093; Stephenson 91-3.

Economic planning/studies (*see* Planning, economic)

Economic policy/strategy (*see* Planning, economic)

Edmonton commitment (*see* Loans/grants, municipalities)

Education

Curling 122; O'Connor 44; Peterson 73, 410; Poirier 342, 1217; Sorbara G451-2; Warner 1211-3, G451.

Education, cooperative (*see* Vocational/trades training) (*see* Apprenticeship/program)

Education, equal opportunity

Peterson 410.

Education, French (*see* Schools, French language) (*see* French language education/instruction)

Education, multicultural

Munro G272.

Education, northern Ontario

Fontaine 3893, 3899; Pierce 3898.

Education, post-secondary

Allen 2739; Bryden G367-73; Cordiano 1356-8; McFadden 2738-9, G363-7; Sorbara 2739, G357-63, G377, G437; Warner G437-8; Wildman 3989.

Education, special

Allen 757-8; Conway 757-8; Rae 756-7; Timbrell 757.

Education amendment act (Bill 30) (*see* Loans/grants, separate school boards)

Education amendment act committee witnesses (*see* Witnesses, education amendment act committee)

Educational materials (*see* Textbooks/educational materials)

Election, Quebec

Grossman 2045-6; McClellan 2046; Peterson 2045.

Election campaign costs (*see* Political contributions) (*see* Financing election campaigns)

Election expenditures

Breaugh R822.

Election office, provincial

Bailie G25.

Election officers/poll clerks

Bailie G25-7; McCague G27; Swart G25-7.

Election results/recounts

Grandmaître 2991; Grier 2991.

Elections, municipal

Brandt 3918; Breaugh 1018, 1070-1, 1082, R822-3; Callahan 1075-6; Cousens 1071-4, 1081-4; Fish 1069-70; Grandmaître 849, 934-5, 1018-9, 1069, 1078, 1084, 2991, R814; Gregory 1084-5; Grier 2991; Haggerty 1018; J.M. Johnson 1074-5, 1082; McClellan 1082-3; Reville 1077-8; Sterling 1017-8, 1076-7; Swart 1083-4; Warner 1074.

Electoral constituencies, provincial

Ashe 851-2; Barlow 520-1; Brandt 863-4; Breaugh 514-8; Conway 2431-4; D.S. Cooke 807-8; Cordiano 2845-746; Cousens 810-1; G.H. Dean 857-8; Eakins 518-20; Elston 506-8, 804-6; Eves 818-9; Gregory 512-4; Grier 811-2; Haggerty 1123-4; Harris 2641-2; Hayes 803-4; Henderson 808-10; Jackson 2443-4, 2742-3; Kerrio 2743-4; Knight 858-9; Leluk 2756-8; Mancini 2435-40; Marland 861-2; McClellan 2430-1; McGuigan 2754-6; McKessock 510-2; McLean 2428-30; G.I. Miller 852-4; R.C. Mitchell 799-800; Morin 855-7; Munro 812-3; R.F. Nixon 3444-5; Offer 1122-3; Philip 815; Pollock 806-7; Polsinelli 2758; Reycraft 862-3; Riddell 2441-3; Runciman 865-6; Sargent 801, 2748-9; Sheppard 2758-9; Shymko 801-3; D.W. Smith 860-1; Sorbara 850-1; South 864-5; Stephenson 2434-5; Sterling 2749-54; Stevenson 813-5; Timbrell 508-9; Treleaven 859-60; Turner 2746-8; Villeneuve 854-5; Wildman 509-10; Wiseman 2744-5; Wrye 816-8.

Electronic Hansard (*see* Television, legislative proceedings)

Electronic surveillance

Sargent 3691.

Electroshock treatment

D.S. Cooke G41-2, G255; Elston 2696-7, 2937-8, G46, G255; Reville 2937.

Elgin-Winter Garden theatre

Munro G270.

Ellis-Don Construction Co.

Caplan 2722; Villeneuve 2722.

Emergency debates (*see* Debates re urgent public matters) (*see* Motions to set aside ordinary business)

Emergency/first aid services

D.S. Cooke G38, G138-9; Elston G142, G144; McKessock G142; Psutka G129-44; Wiseman G144.

Emergency medical care assistants (*see* Paramedics/ services)

Employer-sponsored training (*see* Vocational/trades training) (*see* Apprenticeship/program)

Employment, handicapped/ disabled

Mackenzie 3060; Warner G419.

Employment, northern Ontario

Fontaine 1671; Martel 1671; Morin-Strom 2738; O'Neil 2738.

Employment, seasonal

Gillies G424; Sorbara G430; Warner G420.

Employment counselling centres, youth (*see* Counselling services, youth employment)

Employment creation/programs

Andrewes 2737, 2859; Brandt 253, 1103-4, 1274-5, 3691; Breaugh 1184-5; Curling 34-5; Fontaine 1675-6; Foulds

1146-9, 2571-2; Gillies 35, 369-70, 542, 1167-8, R553-4; Hayes R551-2; Knight 1191; Laughren 921; Mackenzie 995-6, 1367-8; McFadden 234, 436; McLean 1317-8; F.S. Miller 387, 483, 686, 1101, 1336; Morin-Strom 1675-6; R.F. Nixon 686-7, 1056, 1101, 1103-4, 1167-8, 1336-7; O'Connor 40-2; O'Neil 2737-8, 2859-60; Peterson 410, 542-3, 3691; Sorbara 2583-4, G407; Stephenson 91-2; Ward 369-70; Warner 1206; Wrye R552-4.

Employment equity, women (*see* Women's equal opportunity/ program)

Employment growth

Adams R519-21; R. Brown R524; Gillies R520, R524; Mackenzie R519-21, R524; Wrye R519-20.

Employment/programs, youth/ student

Callahan 1194; Caplan 218; Cordiano 1357-8; Fontaine 2947; Gillies 180-4, 218, 904, 980, 983-4, 996-8, 3130, G423-4, G435; Grossman 2798-9, 3941-2; Guindon 3914-5, G438; J.M. Johnson 3475; Lupusella 983; Marland 49-50; Munro 1151-2; R.F. Nixon 687, 1056; Partington 2735, 3242, G415-6, G434-5, G437, G442, G445-6; Peterson 410; Poirier 1216; Rae 979; Shymko 115-6; Sorbara 904-5, 976-7, 979-80, 983-4, 2735-6, 2798-9, 2877, 3130-1, 3242, 3311, 3915, 3941-2, G409-11, G434-7, G442-3; Stephenson 687; Warner 904-5, 980, 2735-6, 2877, 3311, G418, G435-6, G439-41, G442; Wildman 3131; W.G. Wolfson G440.

Employment standards/branch

Mackenzie 1368; Rae 3479, 3556; I.G. Scott 3479, 3556.

Employment termination/notice

Barlow R994; Mackenzie R547-9; Pathe R548; Wrye R487, R548-9.

Energy, alternative

T. Campbell R739; Horton R739; S. Johnson R788; Laughren R739; Morin-Strom 238.

Energy, hydraulic (*see* Hydro generators, small/hydraulic)

Energy, nuclear/atomic

Charlton 1953-4; Conway 1954; Gordon R662; Mackenzie 1954; Sargent 186-7.

Energy, renewable

S. Johnson R788, R792.

Energy, solar/wind

T. Campbell R734.

Energy Board, Ontario

Charlton R763-5; Jackson R770-1; Kerrio R771-2; Macaulay R759-65, R770.

Energy conservation (*see* Energy/ management)

Energy Corporation, Ontario

Charlton R673, R775-6; Gordon R667; Jackson R776-7; Kerrio R654, R684, R776-8; McCague 1118; Rowan R775-8.

Energy costs/prices

Haggerty R760.

Energy from waste program

Allan R798-9; Bradley 1887-8; Charlton R796-7; Fontaine 3885; Gordon R666; Higgin R794-8, R802; Jackson R794-5; S. Johnson R789; Kerrio R794-5; MacOdrum R797; McGuigan R800, R802; E.J. Smith 1887-8; South R798; J.A. Taylor R795-6.

Energy/management

Andrewes 1690-2; Ashe 1695-6; T. Campbell R733-4, R740, R747-8; Caplan 1968; Charlton 1686-9, R669-70, R677-9, R747, R807-8; Gordon R661-2, R718-9; Greven R806-7; Grier 1692-3; Haggerty 1689-90; Higgin R719-20, R725; S. Johnson R787-8; Kerrio R651-2, R654-8, R718-20, R808; Philip 1966; Pierce R720; Ploeger R728-9; E.J. Smith 1693-5; South R740; D. Taylor R725-6; J.A. Taylor R789; Waterfield R726-8.

Energy/management, agricultural (*see* Agricultural energy/ management)

Energy Ministry/personnel

Charlton R672; Gordon R668-9; Jackson R808; Kerrio R808.

Engineers, operating/stationary

Kwinter 2302-3.

English as second language (*see* Languages/instruction)

Enrolment, school (*see* Student enrolment)

Enumerators/enumerations

Bryden 2240; Caplan 2241; R.F. Nixon 1571, 1752.

Environment Ministry/personnel

Bradley 1565, 2967; Fish 2967; Rae 1565.

Environmental assessment/impact

Bradley 541, 642, 1384-5, 1758, 2521-2, 2637-8, 3440-3, 4010-1, 4068; Brandt 421, 541, 1276-7, 1384-5; Breaugh R821-2; Fish 58-9, 68, 287-8, 2638, 4068; Fontaine 3442, 3881; Foulds 1143; Gordon 3442-3; Grier 110, 148-9, 541, 1385, 1758, 4010-1, 4067-8; Harris 3441; Laughren 3440-2; McCague 1117-8; McGuigan 149; McLean 1009-10; F.S. Miller 61, 148-9; O'Connor 43-4; Partington 106-7; Peterson 410, 421, 897-8, 4094; Poirier 68; Rae 60-1, 78-9, 4088; Shymko 1364; Warner 926; Wildman 2637.

Environmental Compensation Corp.

Bradley 1946-7.

Environmental control orders

Grier 3778.

Environmental hearings

Bradley 652-3; Brandt 652; Gregory 2804; Grier 652; Kerrio 2804.

Environmental illness/ hypersensitivity

Elston 1760-1, 2525-6; Warner 1760.

Environmental prosecutions

Bradley 3131-2, 3468, 3777-8; Fish 292, 3468; Grier 3131-2; Rae 3777-8.

Environmental protection fund, proposed

Brandt 3868-70; Charlton 3870-1; Grier 3865-6; Haggerty 3866-8; D.W. Smith 3871-2; South 3863-5, 3872.

Environmental rights

Offer 235.

Equal opportunity, education (*see* Education, equal opportunity)

Equal pay for work of equal value

Barlow R993; Bryden T90-1; Caplan 2204-5, 2729; D.S. Cooke G98; R.G. Elgie 161, 545-6; Fish 3624, 3947, 4004; Gigantes 190, 790, 1600-1, 2055-6, 2874, 3306-7, 3379, 3624, 3781, 3848, 3948, 4004; Gillies 3379, 3849, R500-1; Mackenzie R505-6; Marland 47; McCaffrey 241-3, 249; McCague 430; F.S. Miller 319-20, 389, 481; Munro 306; R.F. Nixon 2056; O'Connor 42-3; Partington 1601; Peterson 407-8, 413-4, 417-8, 3306-7, 4093; Rae 413-4, 417-8, 537-8, 789-90, 4003-4; Rowe T90; I.G. Scott 538, 546, 789-90, 1593-4, 1600-1, 2874, 3370-1, 3379, 3848-9, 3905-6, 3947-8, J5; Shymko 116-7; Stephenson 2009, 2204-5; Timbrell 414, 417, 538, 790; Warner 1214-5; Wrye 319-20, 1594-7, 1600-1, 3624, 3781, 3999-4000, 4003-4, R489-90.

Equalization factor, municipal (*see* Grants, equalization)

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Established program funding, federal (*see* Financing established programs, federal)

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Estimates, Attorney General

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Estimates, Chief Election Officer (*see* Estimates, Office of the Assembly)

Estimates, Citizenship and Culture

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Evictions

Curling 1948-9; McClellan 1948; McFadden 1948.

Exchange rates, currency (*see* Dollar value/revaluation)

Executioner, provincial

Archer A6; Ashe A5; Keyes 1882-3; Rae 1882.

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Exemptions, mining (*see* Mining exemptions)

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Expenditures, provincial (*see* Government spending)

Experience program, youth (*see* Employment/programs, youth/student)

Exploration, oil/gas

Haggerty R720-2; Kerrio R720-2; Lundeen R720-2; G.I. Miller R721-2.

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Caplan 3196, 3240; Cooper T60-4; Eakins T60; Fulton 3240, 3481-2; Rowe 3196, 3240, 3481-2, T60.

Export seminars/forums

O'Neil R984-5.

Exports

Barlow R989; Brandt 254; Harris 4099; O'Connor 41; O'Neil 4099-100.

Exports, food

Caine R389; Stevenson R389.

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Riddell 279-80; Stevenson 279-80.

Extendicare London Nursing Home

D.S. Cooke 793, 841, 939, 947-8, 952-4, 2469; Elston 793-4, 839-43, 938-40, 966-8, 2469; Eves 958-9; Fish 954-5; Foulds 965-6; Gigantes 960-1; Haggerty 959-60; Lane 961-2; Marland 964-5; McClellan 956-8; R.F. Nixon 948-9; Pope 2469; Rae 839-43, 901-2, 938-9, 949-50; I.G. Scott 901-2; E.J. Smith 955-6; Turner 939, 948, 950-1; Van Horne 951-2; Warner 962-4.

Extension programs, farm (*see* Agricultural extension services)

Extra billing, doctors (*see* Doctors, opted out of OHIP)

Falconbridge Ltd.

R.G. Elgie 459-60; Laughren 2634; Peterson 2634; Rae 2634; Wildman 3256; Wrye 459-60.

Family, single-parent (*see* Parents, single)

Family benefits assistance

Cousens 2356; Eves 1105; Foulds 1143-4, 2571; Gigantes 2355-6, 2411-2, 2422; R.F. Johnston 1104, 1239, 1986-7; Mackenzie 1369; R.F. Nixon 1058, 1104-5; Runciman 523-4; Sweeney 1229-30, 1239, 1986-7, 2355-6, 2412-3, 2422.

Family law orders

Gigantes 767, 1089; O'Connor 767, 1089; Pope 209; I.G. Scott 766-7, 1088-90; Warner 1089-90.

Family/property law

Bryden 1030-1; D.R. Cooke 1029-30; Gigantes 189, 1022-6; McClellan 1031-2; F.S. Miller 388, 482; O'Connor 1019-22; Peterson 408; Philip 1032-3; Pope 23-4; I.G. Scott 1033-4, J5; Sterling 1026-7; Warner 1027-9.

Family services (*see* Social/family services)

Family violence (*see* Violence, domestic) (*see* Women, abused/battered)

Farm adjustment assistance program (*see* Loans/grants, farmers)

Farm assistance programs (*see* Farm interest assistance program) (*see* Loans/grants, farmers)

Farm bankruptcies (*see* Bankruptcies/forced closings, farm)

Farm crop insurance/program (*see* Insurance, crop)

Farm income/prices

Hayes 583; Rae 579; Ramsay 583; Riddell 579, 583, 4067; Stevenson 583, 4066-7.

Farm income stabilization program

Ediger R433-4, R475-7; Hayes 583; Lane 1307-8, 3556-7; McKessock R477-8; R.F. Nixon 943; Pierce 225; Ramsay 648, R323, R343-6; Riddell 579, 583, 648, 907-8, 1307-8, 1663-4, 1810-1, 1822-3, 2195, 2535, 3301, 3482-3, 3556-7, R295-6, R327, R343, R363-4, R475-6; Stevenson 583, 907-8, 943, 1181-2, 1822-3, 2195, 2535, 3301, 3482-3, 4080, R306-7, R475-8; Swart 3483; Timbrell 358-60; Villeneuve R433-4.

Farm interest assistance program

Riddell 2979-80, 2989-90, 3198; Stevenson 2989-90, 3198.

Farm interest rates (*see* Interest rates, farm)

Farm lands (*see* Farms/farm lands)

Farm loans (*see* Loans/grants, farmers)

Farm management/programs

Rennie R305.

Farm organizations

P. Fleming R401; Rennie R304; Riddell R364; Stevenson R401.

Farm rentals/leases

Riddell R345.

Farm subsidies (*see* Subsidies, farm)

Farm vacation program

J.M. Johnson R446-7; Rennie R446; Riddell R333, R446; Stevenson R310.

Farmers, interest aid to (*see* Loans/grants, farmers) (*see* Farm interest assistance program)

Farmers, young/beginning

Riddell R335-6.

Farmers financial protection program

Collin R300-1; Hayes R336; McDermid R336, R354; McGuigan 219; Ramsay 32, 65, 218-9; Riddell 32, 65, R334-5; Stevenson 64-6, 218-9, 317, R310-1; Timbrell 32.

Farmers in transition program

Riddell 1449-50.

Farmers/producers

Hayes 251; McLean 1009.

Farmers' rights/protection

Ramsay R322, R342, R447; Riddell R341-2, R446, R448, R450-1; Stevenson R450-1; Villeneuve R450.

Farming

Knight 1192; F.S. Miller 481; Poirier 341; Sargent 1178; D.W. Smith 480; Stevenson 1179-83.

Farming, beef

Lane 3556-7, 3982; Riddell 3301, 3556-7; Stevenson 3301.

Farming, corn

Riddell 4067, R380, R388-9; Stevenson 4066-7, 4081, R379-80; Wheeler R379-80.

Farming, dairy

Ramsay R323; Rennie R398; Riddell 1543, R345; Stevenson R398; D.W. Taylor R398; Treleaven 1543.

Farming, fish (*see* Fish/ management)

Farming, fruit/vegetable

Riddell 584, 2417; Stevenson 316; Swart 584.

Farming, grain/forage

McGuigan 219; Ramsay 218-9; Stevenson 218-9, 317.

Farming, hog

Riddell 648; Stevenson 648.

Farming, livestock

Rennie R305; Riddell 1663-4, 2535; Stevenson 316-7, 2535.

Farming, northern Ontario

Bernier 2958-9, 3244-5; Fontaine 2947, 3267, 3984-5; Lane 3982; Martel 3889; Pierce 224-5, 1289-90; Wildman 3987-8.

Farming, tobacco

Andrewes 944-5; Collin R359; Duckworth R366-8; Ramsay R358-9, R368, R426-7; Riddell 944-5, R297, R358-9, R366-8, R427; Stevenson R366-8.

Farming, tree

Riddell R426.

Farming energy/management (*see* Agricultural energy/ management)

Farms/farm lands

Burak R303-4; Cousens 4098; G.H. Dean 1219, 1222-3; Grandmaître R841-2; Hayes 1250-1; J.M. Johnson 1249-50, R445-6; McCague 1118-9; McKessock 1051; McLean 1245-7, 1317; G.I. Miller 1251-3; Morin 1248-9; R.F. Nixon 1056; Partington 107; Pinder R444-5; Poirier 1216; Ramsay 1247-8, R84, R317, R336, R447; Reycraft 1242-5, 1253; Riddell 651-2, 692, 1051, 1347, 3723, 3773-4, 4098-9, R326-7, R443-6, R448-9; Seguin R355; D.W. Smith 215-6, R358, R448-9; Stevenson 216, 651, 3723, 4080-1, R355, R442-5; Swart 588, 692, 1347; Switzer R346; J.A. Taylor R84, R841-2; Treleaven 1253; Villeneuve 990-1, 1050-1, R449-50.

Fast food processors (*see* Food processors/products)

Fatalities, workers (*see* Workers, fatalities)

Fatalities/deaths

D.S. Cooke 841, 1989; Elston 839-41, 1989; Kerrio 682; Rae 839-41.

Fathers, single (*see* Parents, single)

Federal-provincial agreements

Brock T52-3; Eakins T52-4; Keenan T52; Rowe T51-3; Sharpe T52.

Federal-provincial co-operation

Gillies G424-5, G449; Partington G416; Sorbara G413, G431-2, G448-50; Tully G450; Warner G421-2, G448.

Federal-provincial fiscal arrangements (*see* Financing established programs, federal)

Fertilizers

Laughren 2734; Martel 470, 539, 1323-4, 3887; Peterson 2734-5; Timbrell 2735.

Field services, Agriculture and Food (*see* Agricultural extension services)

Film Development Corp.

Marland G304; Munro 1298-9, G270, G298, G304.

Films/industry

Grande G287-8, G348-9; Hennessy G288; Kwinter 1544; Munro G333, G348-9.

Financial institutions

Kwinter 2459, 2535; Swart 2535.

Financing citizen groups

Bradley 652; Brandt 652; Grier 652.

Financing education (*see* Loans/ grants, universities/colleges) (*see* Loans/grants, school boards) (*see* Loans/grants, separate school boards)

Financing election campaigns

Rae 81.

Financing established programs, federal

Bossy G388-90; Bryden G390; McFadden G367, G393-4; R.F. Nixon 1054; Rae 94; Sorbara G378-9, G388-90, G394; Stephenson 94; Warner 1204-5.

Financing hospitals

Andrewes 314-5; Callahan 108; D.R. Cooke 227; D.S. Cooke G39, G97-8; Corder G159; Dyer G98; Elston G30, G97-9, G122-4; F.S. Miller 96; Pope G98-9; Reid G97, G242-3; Sweeney 96; Turner G172; Villeneuve G122-4, G158.

Financing political parties/ campaigns (*see* Political contributions)

Financing social services

Allen 1314.

Financing universities/colleges (*see* Loans/grants, universities/ colleges)

Fines/sentences

Bradley 1385, 3131-2; D.S. Cooke 99; G.H. Dean 2601-2; R.G. Elgie 99-100; Fulton 2610-1; Grier 1385, 3131-2; O'Connor 2117, 2358-9; I.G. Scott 2117, 2358-9; Swart 2603.

Fire investigation

T. Campbell R745-6; Pierce R745.

Firearms/control

Keyes 2803; Sterling 2802-3.

Firefighters/firefighting

Elston G162-3; Psutka G163; Villeneuve G162.

First aid services (*see* Emergency/ first aid services)

First contracts, union (*see* Union certification/first contract)

Fiscal policy

F.S. Miller 836-7; R.F. Nixon 683-5; Peterson 836-7.

Fish, contaminated

Bradley 1240-1, 3715-6; Grier 3715-6; Pierce 1239-40.

Fish/management

Harris 3551, 3848; Kerrio 3551; Lane 3982; Laughren 3551; Peterson 3848.

Fish testing

Bernier 1240; Bradley 1240.

Fishing, commercial

Harris 147-8, 328-9; McGuigan 147-8; Wildman 148.

Fishing, sport

Grier 3909-10; Kerrio 3909-10; Pope 3910.

Flooding/control

Brandt 3850; Breaugh R822; Haggerty 101-2; Harris 35-6, 102, 2117, 4068-9; Hayes 35, 763, 1782, 1992, 2116, 3378, 3849-50; Kerrio 763, 1782, 1992, 2116-7, 3377-8, 3849-50, 4068-9; Mancini 36; Pollock 3378; Rae 3377, 4069.

Foley, Kirk

Foulds 1527; Fulton 1527.

Food, contaminated

Bradley 2351-3; Fish 1987-9; Grier 1988, 2351-2; Riddell 1987-9, 2056-7; Runciman 2056.

Food, irradiated

Kwinter 3556; Swart 3555-6.

Food banks

Gillies 2741; R.F. Johnston 2740-1; Peterson 2740-1.

Food costs

Villeneuve 990.

Food prices

Ramsay R320.

Food processors/products

Bossy 320-1; Ramsay 321; Stevenson 320-1.

Food production (*see* Farming)

Foodland Ontario program

Albany R378-9; Ramsay R378; Riddell 3369.

Foodlands (*see* Farms/farm lands)

Foreign aid
Henry R438; D.W. Smith R438.

Foreign arbitral awards
I.G. Scott 2879.

Foreign Investment Review Agency (*see* Investment, foreign)

Foreign ownership of industry (*see* Industries, foreign/control)

Foreign service offices, Ontario government
R.F. Nixon 1060, 1104.

Forest industries/products
Harris 4099; O'Neil 4099-100; Pierce 224.

Forest regeneration/reforestation
Foulds 331-2; Kerrio 1674, 3465-6; Laughren 918-9, 1674, 3465-6; Martel 471; Ramsay 1175.

Forest resources/management
Bernier 2802; Bradley 3202-3; Fontaine 3880; Foulds 330; Grandmaître 4013; Harris 464; Kerrio 464, 898, 905-6, 1299-300, 1308-9, 1342, 2290-1, 2298, 2354; Laughren 300-1, 464, 905, 918-9, 1308, 2298, 2354, 3202-3; McCague 1117; Morin-Strom 237-8, R1002, R1004, R1019; O'Neil R1019; Peterson 2802; Pierce 1290, 1342, 3203; Wildman 923-5, 988, 1342, 3258, 3977, 3987.

Franco-Ontarian affairs council (*see* Council, Franco-Ontarian affairs)

Francophone affairs/office
Beaugrand-Champagne R969-70; Grandmaître R956-8, R964-5, R969, R975-6; Gueguen-Charon R976; Guindon R958-9, R969, R975-6; R.F. Nixon 3312; Pouliot R962-3; Robitaille R976; Shymko R969-70.

Free trade (*see* Tariffs/duties)

Freedom of association (*see* Civil/political rights)

Freedom of information (*see* Disclosure, government documents/information)

Freight/trucking rates
Fontaine 3892; Martel 3888; Pierce 3897.

French education (*see* Schools, French language)

French language debates
Grandmaître 350-1, 1223, 2115-6, R964, R968-71; Guindon 264-5, 670, 2115, 3486-8, R958-9, R965; F.S. Miller 389; Peterson 503; Poirier 340, 342-3, 669, 1215-8; Pouliot 533, 2116, 3330-2, R974-5; Rae 503; I.G. Scott 19; Shymko 1365-6, R955-6, R969-74; Villeneuve 3332-4.

French language education/instruction
Allen 3322-6; Conway 3315; Davis 3315-22; Grandmaître R968-9; Grossman 363-4; Guindon G437, R969; Peterson 410; Pope 3326-30; Pouliot 3330-2; Shymko 117; Sorbara G437-8; Villeneuve 3332-4.

French language rights (*see* Language rights)

French language services (*see* Bilingual services, courts) (*see* Bilingual services, government)

French language television services
Leluk 361-2.

Fruit/vegetable storage/packaging
Stevenson 316.

Full employment (*see* Employment growth)

Functional illiteracy (*see* Illiteracy, adult)

Fund raising/organizations
Caplan 3459; Stephenson 3459.

Fungicides (*see* Pesticides/herbicides)

Furniture industry
Morin-Strom 238.

Furniture/surplus, Ontario government
Caplan 1970; Villeneuve 1962.

Futures program (*see* Employment/programs, youth/student)

Game wardens (*see* Conservation officers/game wardens)

Garbage dumps (*see* Landfill/sites)

Gas, natural

Allan R722-4; Haggerty R722-3; Kerrio R652-3, R721-4; Lundeen R722; Macaulay R765-6; MacOdrum R766; McGuigan R723; G.I. Miller R721-2, R724, R765-6.

Gas, natural, prices/rates

Andrewes 1134-5, 1236, 1304; G.H. Dean R768-9; Gordon R668; Haggerty R760; Kerrio 1096-7, 1134-5, 1302-5, 1526-7, R652-3, R684-5; Macaulay R759-62, R767-9; Mancini R767-9; Peterson 1236-7, 1302; Pierce R761; Rae 1135, 1302, 1304; D.W. Smith R760-1; Swart 1236-7, 1305, 1526.

Gas, natural, shortage/surplus

Macaulay R768-9.

Gas, natural, storage (*see* Reservoirs, oil/gas)

Gas, propane/butane

Macaulay R762; Pierce R762.

Gasohol (*see* Gasoline/oil substitutes/conversion kits)

Gasoline/motor fuels

Bradley 581-2; Brandt 582; Fish 67; Grier 581-2; McGuigan 67.

Gasoline/oil substitutes/conversion kits

Bower R700; Boyd R398; Gordon R663; Greven R803-5; Haggerty R699; Higgin R804; Kerrio R659, R804; MacOdrum R699; McGuigan R804-5; G.I. Miller R398-9; Pierce R699-700, R802-3; Ploeger R728; Riddell R350, R352, R364; D.W. Smith R398; Stevenson R312, R352.

Gasoline prices (*see* Oil/gasoline prices)

Gasoline spillage (*see* Spillage/leakage, hazardous products/waste)

GATT (*see* Tariffs/duties)

General Motors of Canada

D.S. Cooke 3722, 3947; Hayes 3722, 3947; O'Neil 3947; Peterson 3722.

General welfare assistance (*see* Welfare assistance, general)

Girls (*see* Women/girls)

GO Temporary employment service

Bryden 2238, 2253; Caplan 2239-41, 2253.

GO transit service

Ashe 1045; Breaugh 1045, 1186; G.H. Dean 922-3, 1045, 1221, 2571; Fulton 1045, 1229; McCague 89-90.

GO-ALRT system (*see* Transportation, ALRT)

Golf courses/fees

Caplan 578; Laughren 578.

Good Samaritan services (*see* Emergency/first aid services)

Government documents

Ediger R365-6; F.S. Miller 217; Ruprecht 217; Stevenson R365-6.

Government policy statements/papers

F.S. Miller 788-9; Peterson 405-11, 788-9.

Government Services Ministry/personnel

Ashe 1999-2000; Caplan 1957-8, 1967, 2000-1; Villeneuve 1961.

Government spending

Caplan 578, 2006; Hennessy 1007; F.S. Miller 577-8, 685, 763-4; R.F. Nixon 685-6, 763-4, 1060, 1569-70; Peterson 408-9, 419; Philip 1348-50; Rae 686; Stephenson 419.

Grants

Cousens 1310; Munro 1149-50; R.F. Nixon 1100-2, 1310; Rae 1100-1.

Grants, colleges (*see* Loans/grants, universities/colleges)

Grants, community projects/ centres

Eakins T91-2; Rowe T91-2.

Grants, cultural

Leluk 2806-7; McCague 1115; Munro 2806-7, 2987, G336; Poirier 1217; Warner 1213.

Grants, day care centres

Caplan 985; R.F. Johnston 985, 1138; Sweeney 1138-9.

Grants, education/academic (*see* Loans/grants, universities/ colleges)

Grants, equalization

G.H. Dean 1577; R.F. Nixon 1571-2.

Grants, farmers (*see* Loans/grants, farmers)

Grants, federal-provincial

Sorbara 2583-4.

Grants, highway/road

Fulton 2936-7; Rae 2937; Shymko 2936-7.

Grants, hospital/health facilities

Andrewes 644; Barlow 762; Brandt 761; D.S. Cooke 643-4, 755; Elston 1562-3, 3382; Gillies 1300-1; Gordon 3382; Grossman 688, 756; Jackson 760; J.M. Johnson 760; Martel 3381-2; F.S. Miller 643, 755-6; Morin-Strom 1562-3; R.F. Nixon 688-9, 1300-2, 3435-6; Peterson 643-4, 755-6, 760-3; Rae 760, 763; Swart 1301; Timbrell 3435; Wildman 1562.

Grants, housing (*see* Loans/grants, housing)

Grants, housing, federal (*see* Housing programs, federal)

Grants, immigrant services

Grande 1170, 1953; Leluk 1169, 1953; Munro 1953; Peterson 1169-70; Ruprecht 1953.

Grants, Indian groups (*see* Loans/ grants, Indian groups)

Grants, industries (*see* Loans/ grants, industries)

Grants, lottery

Eakins 3475; Marland G337-8; Munro G337-8; Pouliot T13.

Grants, municipal (*see* Loans/ grants, municipalities)

Grants, northern Ontario

Bernier 982, 3248-9; Fontaine 975-6, 980-2; Gordon 981-2; Harris 981; Martel 980-1; Morin-Strom 982; Sheppard 1192-3; Wildman 980-1.

Grants, post-secondary education (*see* Loans/grants, universities/ colleges)

Grants, research

Conway 1954; Mackenzie 1954.

Grants, resource equalization (*see* Grants, equalization)

Grants, school (*see* Loans/grants, school boards)

Grants, senior citizen (*see* Tax grants, senior citizens)

Grants, social service

Caplan 578; Foulds 689; F.S. Miller 577-8.

Grants, sports/travel

Baetz 1955; Eakins 681, 1955-6.

Grants, students (*see* Loans/grants, students)

Grants, unconditional

Brandt R818; Grandmaître R814.

Grants, university (*see* Loans/ grants, universities/colleges)

Grants to provinces, federal (*see* Financing established programs, federal)

Grants-in-lieu

Close R854-6; E.M. Fleming R856-7; McKessock R854-7; J.A. Taylor R856.

Grape growing (*see* Farming, fruit/ vegetable)

Great Lakes cleanup (*see* Pollution, Great Lakes/Niagara River)

Great Lakes/Seaway system
Harris 207-8.

Greenbelts
Mackenzie 1369-71.

Greenhouses/hydroponics
Kerrio 1308-9, 1342; Laughren 1308, 3690-1; Mancini 154; Peterson 3690-1; Philip 2243; Pierce 1290, 1342; Stephenson 2243; Wildman 1342.

Grievances/procedures
Barlow 147, 370; Eves 147, 370-1.

Group homes
Cousens 3480; Eves 985; R.F. Johnston 3481; Sweeney 985, 3480.

Group practices, doctors (*see* Health service organizations)

Guardian, official
I.G. Scott J7.

Guillotine motions (*see* Time allocation motions/resolutions)

Guns (*see* Firearms/control)

Halfway houses, alcoholics
Allen 2426-7; Peterson 2427.

Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre
Cousens 371; Mackenzie 371.

Handicapped, facilities for
Treleaven 4081-2.

Handicapped/disabled, sports/recreation
Eakins T6-8, T91; Rowe T91; Sharpe T 91.

Handicapped/disabled persons
Cousens 2638; Eves 1172-3; R.F. Johnston 1104; Sweeney 2638-9.

Hansard reporting service
Brannan G10; Gregory G10; McClellan G10; R.F. Nixon 588, 2227; Runciman 849-50; Timbrell 2227.

Harbours/ports
Foulds 93; Morin-Strom 237; Stephenson 93.

Hartt commission, northern development (*see* Commission, Northern Environment)

Hate propaganda
Fish J40; O'Connor J38; I.G. Scott J39.

Hazardous products
Armstrong R577-8; Fish 283-4; Gillies R572-82; Martel 3060, R614, R636, R643; McGuigan 284; Pelmear R643-4; Rae 283-4; Wrye 2459-60, R488-9, R576-7, R635-6.

Health, environmental
Martel 897.

Health, occupational (*see* Health/safety, occupational)

Health, public
Elston G50; Villeneuve G50.

Health and safety committees, industrial (*see* Committees, occupational health and safety)

Health boards
Sterling 2616.

Health care/services
Blake G100-2; Callahan 474; D.S. Cooke G37, G45, G233-5; Cousens 2118; G.H. Dean G170-1; Elston 539-40, 3302-3, G35-6, G46, G81-2, G100-2, G170-1, G233-5; Grossman 539-40; R.F. Johnston 2118; Knight 1192; Munro 1152-3; O'Connor 44; Peterson 579-81, 3304-6; Poirier 341-2, G50-1; Pope 4076-8, G81, G100-1; Rae 579-81, 3302, 3304-6; Reid G100; Reville 229; E.J. Smith 267-8, 1286-7; Sweeney 2118; Villeneuve G49-50; Wiseman G101.

Health care/services, northern
Elston 682, 832-3, 1768-70, 2109-10, G31, G91-2; Fontaine 2946-7, 3132-3, 3555; Foulds 2055; Gordon 3132-3, 3555; Hennessy G90-1; Martel 217; McKessock G91-2; F.S. Miller 217; Peterson 2055; Pierce 3897-8; Pope 2054-5, G80-1; Pouliot G165; Ramsay 157; Warner 1206-8; Wildman 3988.

Health centres, community (*see* Health service organizations)

Health councils

Elston 3056; Runciman 3055-6.

Health hazards

Elston 2705; Gillies 2705; Wrye 1665.

Health insurance (*see* OHIP)

Health Ministry/personnel

Elston G48-9, G228-9; Guindon G228-9; Pope 4076-8; Treleaven 4081; Wiseman G48-9.

Health planning councils (*see* Health councils)

Health promotion/office of

D.S. Cooke G92; Elston G34-5, G92.

Health/safety, occupational

Armstrong R577-8, R616, R624-7; Barlow R627; G.A. Brown R595; D.S. Cooke 99, 416-7, 1166-7; R.G. Elgie 97-100, 161-3, 205-6; Gillies 3686, R563-5, R572, R577, R581-2, R624, R626, R635; B. Goodman R576, R627, R635, R640, R642-3, R645; Gordon 846, 1167, 1235, 1237-8, 1607; Lane 3990; Mackenzie R594-5, R644; Marland 48; Martel 1166-7, 1237, 1462, 1606-7, 1956-7, 2356-7, 3060, 3307, 3557, 3784, 3847, R562-3, R565-82, R613-9, R624-31, R634, R636-46; McClellan 378-9; F.S. Miller 388; Pelmear R643-4; Peterson 1235; Rae 1235-6, 3620-1; Reville 3685; A. Robinson R624; I.G. Scott 1237; Warner 260; Wildman 97-8, 3621, 3986; Wrye 416-7, 449-50, 846-7, 1166-7, 1235-8, 1462, 1606-7, 1664-5, 1956-7, 2187, 2356-7, 2459-60, 3307, 3557, 3620-1, 3679-80, 3685, 3784, 3847, R488-9, R562-5, R570-2, R576-7, R579-82, R595, R613, R616-9, R623-31, R633-7, R645-6.

Health/safety representative, workers (*see* Committees, occupational health and safety)

Health service organizations

D.S. Cooke G44-5.

Health services (*see* Health care/services)

Health travel/costs

Bernier 2951-2, 3895, G151-3, G156-7; D.S. Cooke G248; Cousens 2118, 2421; Elston 765, 832-3, 1674-5, 1768-70, 2109, 2301, 2338-9, G105-15, G151-8, G248, G251-2, G258; Fontaine 2946, 3263-4, 3895, 4040; Foulds 332, 1675; Harris 3991; Hennessy 765, 1674-5, G110-3, G155-6; R.F. Johnston 2118, 2421; Martel 472-4; McCague 1120; McKessock G158; R.F. Nixon 1057; Peterson 411; Pope 2300-1, 2337-8, G105, G108-11, G114-5, G248, G251-2; Pouliot 2301, G154-5, G157-8; Psutka G111; Rae 80; Swart G113-4; Sweeney 2118, 2421; Villeneuve G258; Ward G107-8; Warner 260-1; Wiseman G107-8, G112.

Health units (*see* Public health units)

Hearings, consolidated environmental (*see* Environmental hearings)

Hearings, Residential Tenancy Commission

Curling 2230-1; McFadden 2230-1.

Heat Save program

Charlton R679.

Heating, district

Charlton R681.

Helicopters/heliports

Elston 1770; Fontaine 3920.

Hepatitis

Andrewes 282-3, 315; D.S. Cooke 282-3; R.F. Nixon 282; Rae 281-2.

Herbicides (*see* Pesticides/herbicides)

Heritage buildings (*see* Historical sites/buildings)

Heritage foundation

Munro G272-3.

Heritage fund, northern Ontario

Foulds 428; Martel 471-2; Wildman 3261.

Heritage highways (*see* Highways, heritage)

Heritage languages program
Grande G291, G349-50; Munro G295-6.

Heritage Ontario program (*see* Heritage foundation)

Highway/road construction (*see* Construction, highways/roads)

Highway/road maintenance
Breaugh R820; Eakins T30; Hayes 252; Poirier 341; Rowe T26.

Highway/road planning
Gregory 2804; Kerrio 2803-4; Laughren 2803-4.

Highway/road surfacing/ reconstruction
Peterson 1095, 1815; Pouliot 1815.

Highway 400
Fulton 2936-7; Rae 2937; Shymko 2936-7.

Highway 417 (Ottawa Queensway)
Baetz 1107; Grandmaître 1224; Peterson 1095, 1107-8; Sterling 1108.

Highways
Cousens 1003; Fulton 4098; J.M. Johnson 4098; Mackenzie 1369-71; McCague 89, 103; R.F. Nixon 103.

Highways, heritage
Eakins T59; McGuigan T59.

Highways/roads, Indian reservations
Fulton 2963; Gregory 2963.

Highways/roads, northern
Bernier 2958, 3244; Fontaine 3984; Lane 3982; Wildman 3986.

Hiring policies, government
Baetz 2721; Runciman 2721.

Historical sites/buildings
Eakins T57; McGuigan T56; Rowe T57-8; Weber T57-8.

Holiday observance (*see* Sunday/ holiday observance)

Holidays with pay (*see* Vacations/ holidays with pay)

Home assistance program (*see* Home care services, health/social)

Home care services, health/social
D.S. Cooke G43-4; Cordiano 212-3; Cousens 2591, 3554-5; Elston 1887, G29; Eves 213, 278-9; Gigantes 1887; R.F. Johnston 3554; Rae 2590-1; Sweeney 2590-1, 3543-4, 3554-5.

Home heating
Curling 1347; Davis 1346-7.

Home renewal program (*see* Housing renewal programs)

Home support program (*see* Home care services, health/social)

Homemakers' services (*see* Home care services, health/social)

Homes (*see* Housing)

Homes, group, for delinquent children (*see* Group homes)

Homes for special care
D.S. Cooke G94, G97; Corder G94; Elston G94, G97.

Homes for the aged (*see* Aged, homes for)

Honda Canada Inc.
McCague 2584; Peterson 2584.

Horseracing/racetracks
Kwinter 3479-80; Turner 3479.

Hospital appeal board (*see* Doctors, licensing/accreditation)

Hospital bed registry (*see* Hospital/bed shortage/surplus)

Hospital/bed shortage/surplus
Bernier 328; D.S. Cooke 3436, G39; Dyer G227; Laughren 299-300, 328; R.F. Nixon 3435-6; Poirier 1217-8; Rowe 3436; Timbrell 3435; Van Horne 328; Wildman 328.

Hospital boards

Andrewes 522-3; D.S. Cooke 522.

Hospital emergency services

Elston 1238, 2231-2, 2990-1; Gillies 2231-2, 2990-1; Timbrell 1238.

Hospital financing (*see* Financing hospitals)

Hospital insurance (*see* OHIP)

Hospital patients, foreign

D.S. Cooke 3718; Elston 3718-9; Grossman 3718-9.

Hospital privileges (*see* Doctors, licensing/accreditation)

Hospital services, alternative care

D.S. Cooke G44-5.

Hospital staff/cutbacks

D.S. Cooke G235-6; Elston G235-6.

Hospital supplies/equipment

Bernier G153; Elston G153-4.

Hospital trauma units (*see* Hospital emergency services)

Hospitals, corporate management

Peterson 579-81; Rae 579-81.

Hospitals, psychiatric/mental

Elston G34.

Hospitals, shutdown/cutbacks

Cousens 1002-3.

Hospitals/beds, chronic care

Andrewes 150, 371-2; D.S. Cooke 3436, 3906-7; Elston 4002-3; Grossman 4002-3; R.F. Nixon 3435-6; Peterson 3906-7; Pope 3906; Rae 4002-3; Rowe 3906; E.J. Smith 150, 372; Timbrell 3435.

Hospitals/services

Andrewes 36, 98, 314-5; Callahan 108; D.S. Cooke 98, 755; Cousens 1002-3; Elston G122-4; Grossman 756; F.S. Miller 755-6; Peterson 755-6; Pope G121-2; Reid G121-2; Sweeney 36, 98; Villeneuve G122-4.

Hostels/shelters, emergency

Cousens 2633; Eves 2703; Gigantes 2594; Marland 49, 2594; Philip 1351; Rae 2632-3, 2702-3; Sweeney 2594, 2632-4, 2702-3.

Hours/days of work

Barlow R537-8; Foulds 1146-7; Gillies 1735, 1990, 2051, 3128, R501, R527-8, R537; Gordon 1949; Hayes R528; Mackenzie 1368, 1990, 2050-1, 2536, 3128, R507-8, R526-7, R529-30, R535-6; Martel 1950, 3241-2; McClellan 1949; Rae 1669, 1734-6, 3127-8, 3479, 3556; Ramsay R527; I.G. Scott 3479, 3556, R535-6; Wrye 1669, 1735-6, 1949-50, 1990, 2050-1, 3127-8, 3242, 3369-70, R488, R526-30, R535-7.

Hours of business (*see* Business hours/days)

Housing

Curling 750-1; Marland 48-9; McCague 1115-6; F.S. Miller 388; Munro 1152; Peterson 408; E.J. Smith 1287.

Housing, condominium

G.H. Dean 1576; R.F. Nixon 1790; Philip 1353-6, 1787-8.

Housing, emergency (*see* Hostels/shelters, emergency)

Housing, geared-to-income (*see* Housing, public)

Housing, handicapped (*see* Handicapped, facilities for)

Housing, low-cost

Curling 3058, 3781; Epp 96-7; Foulds 1006; Gordon 3058, 3781; McClellan 3058; F.S. Miller 96-7.

Housing, luxury

Gigantes 1035; O'Connor 1035.

Housing, non-profit

Breaugh R821; Curling 2938, R888-9, R895-6, R939-40; Gordon R869, R939-40; McClellan 2464, 2938, R870, R893-4, R897-8, R914, R938-9; McFadden 1677; Peters R889-98; Philip 1350, R914-8; Pierce R895; D.W. Smith R89; M. Wilson R938-9.

Housing, northern Ontario

Bernier 3248; Curling 3931; Fontaine 3268, 3900, 3980; Harris 3991-2; Pierce 3931.

Housing, OHC

Pierce R903; Pitura R900, R903.

Housing, older/renovated

G.H. Dean 648; R.F. Nixon 648.

Housing, psychiatrically disabled

Curling 3552; Elston 4004-5; Gigantes 150; Gordon R865; Mackenzie 1370-1; McCague 3552; McClellan 4004; Rae 4005; Reville 4004-5; Timbrell 150, 207.

Housing, public

Breaugh 1187-8; Curling 2938, R896-7, R914; Fontaine 3201-2; Guindon 2938, R895-7; Hennessy 3201-2; McClellan R870, R874, R914; G.I. Miller R902; Peters R896-7; Philip 1350-2; Pitura R902; Pouliot 3202; Timbrell 207; Warner 261.

Housing, rental

Callahan 1196; G. Church R930-2; Curling 792-3, 1947-9, 2111, 2358, 2455-8, 2464-9, 2533, 3134, R878, R887-8, R895, R920, R931; Gigantes 187-9; Gordon 1947, 2111, 2357-8, 2469, 2533, 3381, R864-8, R879, R882-3; Grandmaître 2595-6; Harris R909-10; Henderson 196; R.F. Johnston 2111; Knight 1191-2; Lesurf R923; Mancini R881-2; McCague 1116; McClellan 793, 938, 1165-6, 1948, 2358, 2464-6, 2533, 2588, 2595, 3381, R871-2, R882, R893-4; McFadden 233, 1948, 2464-5, 2595-6; McGuigan R880-1, R944; McLean 1318-9; F.S. Miller 481-2; G.I. Miller R903-4; R.F. Nixon 937-8, 1056-7, 1165-6, 3381; Peters R889-98; Peterson 2587-9; Pierce R895; Pitura R878-80, R900-4; Poirier 1216-7; Rae 2464; Reville 229-30, R877-9; Rowe 3134; Sheppard 1193; Shymko 113-4; South R893; Sparling R910; Timbrell 792-3, 937-8, 1165, 2587-9, R930-2.

Housing, rooming

Curling 2986; Lesurf R924; McClellan 2986; O'Connor 2986.

Housing, senior citizens

Caplan 3441; Gordon 3441.

Housing, students

Bryden G395; Sorbara G395-6.

Housing conversions (*see* Rental apartment conversions)

Housing Corporation, Ontario

Beesley R915-9; Caplan 1968; Curling R914-7; Guindon R918; McClellan R944; Philip 1350-1, 1965, 1968, A9; Pitura R899-900; J.A. Taylor R918.

Housing industry (*see* Construction, housing)

Housing Ministry/personnel

Curling 794, R863; Gordon R864; Marland 794; McClellan R875-6.

Housing programs, federal

Beesley R918; Guindon R918; McClellan R913-4; M. Wilson R913-4.

Housing programs, provincial

Cornell R941; Curling 2455-8, R911-2, R920, R940-3; Gordon R865-70, R912, R940-3; Harris R910-2; Lesurf R941-2; McClellan 536, R874; Sparling R910-2; Timbrell 207; M. Wilson R912.

Housing renewal programs

Brandt R819-20; Curling 2457, 2470; Jackson 2469-70.

Housing repairs (*see* Building/housing repairs/renovations)

Housing shortage

McClellan R872-3, R875; Rae 2702-3; Sweeney 2702-3.

Hudson's Bay Co.

Harris 2299; O'Neil 2299.

Human rights (*see* Civil/political rights)

Human rights code/commission

G.A. Brown R589-90; Bryden 1035-6, T 36; Eakins T36; R.G. Elgie 161; Gigantes J30-1; Gillies R494, R591-3; Mackenzie R504, R588-9, R591, R594-6; Polsinelli J31; Pope 138-41; Purcell R588-91; I.G. Scott 1035-6, J5, J30-1; A.D. Wolfson R593-4; Wrye 1731, R490, R591-6.

Hydro, industry generated

Charlton R681.

Hydro, northern

Fontaine 3920; Kerrio R655; Pierce 1288, 3896-7; Ramsay 157.

Hydro, Ontario

Andrewes 2530; Bradley 2529-30; T. Campbell R733-9; Charlton 3439, R670-2; Gordon R663-7; Grier 2529-30; Haggerty R739; Kerrio 927; McCague 1120; R.F. Nixon 383; Peterson 409, 3439; Rae 2529; Sargent 185-7; Warner 261.

Hydro, private/small development
Kerrio R658.

Hydro brownouts (*see* Hydro shortage/surplus)

Hydro co-generation
Allan R801; T. Campbell R753; Charlton R671, R680-1, R705, R713-4, R801; Gordon R665-6, R705-6; Higgin R705, R714, R799; Jackson R799; Kerrio R685-6, R705-6, R713, R799-801; G.I. Miller R753; D.W. Smith R705.

Hydro conservation
Charlton R750; Niitenberg R750.

Hydro emissions (*see* Pollution, Hydro)

Hydro expansion/over-expansion
Harris 210-1; Kerrio R653-4.

Hydro generating stations
T. Campbell R745-6; Niitenberg R746; Pierce R745.

Hydro generators, small/hydraulic
T. Campbell R743-4, R748, R750-1; Charlton R669-70, R708-10, R713, R747-8, R750; Gordon R708, R743-4; Haggerty R710-1; Higgin R709-11, R713; Kerrio R708-9, R752; Laughren R709; McGuigan R751-3; G.I. Miller R753; Niitenberg R744, R747-8; Pierce R712; Shervill R712-213.

Hydro policy/accountability
Charlton R673; Gordon R663-4; Kerrio R686.

Hydro power/lines
T. Campbell R749, R754; Gordon R666, R708; Kerrio R708; Niitenberg R754; D.W. Smith R754.

Hydro purchases
T. Campbell R749-50; Charlton R749-50.

Hydro rates
T. Campbell R736, R741; Charlton R670, R763-4; Gordon R664-5, R719; Haggerty R741; Higgin R711, R719, R741; Jackson R770-1; Kerrio R711, R719, R736, R771-2; Macaulay R763-4, R770; F.S. Miller 59-60; R.F. Nixon 59-60; Pierce R711; D.W. Smith R737.

Hydro shortage/surplus
T. Campbell R746; Niitenberg R746.

Hydroponics (*see* Greenhouses/hydroponics)

Hyundai plant
Bennett 1561-2; Lavelle R1010; F.S. Miller 1557-8; O'Neil 1557-8, 1562; Rae 1558.

IDEA Corporation
Brandt 286; Foulds 286; Offer 286; O'Neil R988.

Illiteracy, adult
Poirier 1217; Sorbara G409; Warner 1213, G420.

Immigrant services
Grande 1170, 1953; Leluk 301-2, 1169, 1953, 1992; Munro 1953, 1992, G336; Peterson 1169-70; Ruprecht 1953.

Immigrants
Leluk G275-6; Munro G268, G295.

Immunization/vaccine
Andrewes 282-3, 315; Breaugh 1684-5; D.S. Cooke 282-3, 1681-2; Elston 2470, 3916-7, 3948-9; Guindon 1683; Henderson 1682-3; R.F. Nixon 282; Pierce 1678-81, 1686; Rae 281-2; Reville 2470; Stephenson 3916-7, 3949; Ward 1685-6.

Impaired drivers (*see* Drivers, drinking/impaired)

Import replacements
Foulds 1146.

Imports
Frank R381; Stevenson R381.

Imports, fruit/vegetables
Bossy 320; Ramsay R320-1; Riddell R388; Stevenson 320-1.

Imports, motor vehicles
Bennett 455-6, 587; Brandt 768-9; D.S. Cooke 455; Lavelle R1010; F.S. Miller 454-5; Morin-Strom 587; O'Neil 534-5, 587, 767-8; Peterson 455-6; Rae 769-70; D.W. Smith R1009-10; J.A. Taylor R1010.

Imports, pork/beef
Caine R387-8; Ramsay R387-8; Riddell R387.

Inco Limited

Bernier 2054; Bradley 538, 2236; Brandt 539; Fish 2235-6; Fontaine 2051-2, 2235-6; Foulds 2051-2; Grier 2236; Kwinter 3050; Laughren 2053-4, 2734; Martel 1950, 2641; Peterson 2053-4, 2734-5; Pope 2052; Rae 78-9, 538, 2235-6, 3050; Timbrell 2735; Villeneuve 2235; Wrye 1950.

Income maintenance (*see* Family benefits assistance) (*see* Welfare assistance, general)

Incorporation, company (*see* Corporations/incorporation)

Indian affairs

Bernier 3245-6; Fontaine 3264, 3267.

Indian bands/people

Bernier 3895; Fontaine 1670, 2947-8, 3880, 3985-6; Munro 1153; Peterson 2874-5; Pouliot 2874-5; I.G. Scott 1770; Wildman 924-5, 1670.

Indian culture/history

Munro G271.

Indian employment/ unemployment

Gillies 3130; Sorbara 3130-1; Warner G419-20; Wildman 3131.

Indian land claims

Harris 146-7; Pouliot 146; I.G. Scott 147.

Indian lands/reservations

Fontaine 1666; Foulds 427; Lane 3983; R.F. Nixon 439-40.

Indian people (*see* Indian bands/ people)

Indian reservations (*see* Indian lands/reservations)

Indian schools/education

Fontaine 3881, 3901, 3985, 4040; Harris 3991; Pierce 3901.

Indian self-government

Fontaine 3264; Wildman 3259.

Indian teachers/students

Allen 2938-9; Conway 2939.

Indian workers

Munro G339.

Indigents (*see* Welfare recipients)

Industrial health (*see* Health/ safety, occupational)

Industrial promotion, municipal

J.M. Johnson 1900-3, 1911-2; McKessock 1905-6; McLean 1906-7; Ramsay 1903-5; Reycraft 1909-10; Sheppard 1910-1; Wildman 1907-9.

Industrial strategy (*see* Planning, industrial)

Industries

Foulds 1006; Mackenzie 1369-70.

Industries, foreign/control

Fontaine 3884.

Industries, primary/resource

Fontaine 3885.

Industries, relocation of

Bennett 1779-81; O'Neil 1779-81.

Industries, secondary

Fontaine 982, 3884, 3891-2; Martel 3886-90; Morin-Strom 982; Pierce 3897, 3901-2; Ramsay 1175-6; Wildman 3258-9.

Industries, shutdown/cutbacks

Armstrong R546; Bossy 320-1; Brandt 2427; D.S. Cooke 3307-8; R.G. Elgie 326-8; Fontaine 980-1; Foulds 1147-8, 4007; Fulton 326-8; Gillies 759, 1526, R497-9, R545-7; Gordon 4007; Hennessy 4006; Kerrio 4006-7; Laughren 919-20, 2053-4; Mackenzie 172, 1387, 1525-6, 2739, R543-4; Martel 980-1; Morin-Strom 759; R.F. Nixon 758-60; O'Neil 1387, 1526; Peterson 2053-4, 2427, 3308; Rae 758-9; Ramsay 321; Stevenson 320-1; Warner 262, 1209; Wildman 980-1, 989;

Wrye 749-50, 2739-40, R544-7.

Industries, takeover (*see* Mergers/takeovers, corporate)

Industries/businesses, new/expanded

Brandt 66-7; Van Horne 66.

Industry, Trade and Technology Ministry/personnel

Morin-Strom R995; O'Neil R981, R1010-1.

Infant deaths, prevention of (*see* Perinatal program)

Inflation

R.F. Nixon 1055-6.

Influence peddling

Gordon 1300; O'Connor 3468; Peterson 1300; I.G. Scott 3468.

Information services, community

Munro G269.

Information services, Consumer and Commercial Relations

Kwinter 2866.

Information services, government

Caplan 2211; Stephenson 2212-3.

Information services, Tourism and Recreation

Eakins T6, T9; McCall T35.

Inhaling harmful substances

Elston 2705; Gillies 2705.

Inquests (*see* Coroners/inquests)

Insect infestations

Grandmaître 4013; Kerrio 1527-8, 4000-1, 4064; Pollock 1527-8.

Inspection, dairy

Collin R301-2.

Inspection, food/handlers

Lupusella R462-3; Riddell R462-3.

Inspection, fruit/vegetable

Collin R301-2.

Inspection, health/safety

Martel 3784; Wrye 3784.

Inspection, livestock

Burak R472; Collin R301-2; G.I. Miller R472.

Inspection, nursing/rest homes

D.S. Cooke 793, 1241, G183, G185-6; G.H. Dean G96-7, G183-5, G189-90; Elston 793-4, 1241, 1762, G183, G186, G188-9, G212; Gould G185-6, G189; Kealey G183-5; Pope G212; Warner 1761.

Inspection, safety (*see* Inspection, health/safety)

Institute for Studies in Education

Allen 1309, 1314-5; Andrewes 2970; Bryden 1310, 2053, 2593, 3309-10, 4013, G399-401; McFadden 1310, 2052-3, 2531, 2592-3, 2970, 3124-6, 3437, G365-6, G396-8, G401; R.F. Nixon 1309-10, 2530-1, 2591-3, 2970, 3124-6, 3310, 3437; Philip 1352-3; Rae 2530-1, 2591-3, 3125; Sorbara 2053, 2593, 2739, 2970, G362, G377-8, G396-401; Warner 1212-3.

Insurance, automobile (*see* Insurance, motor vehicle)

Insurance, commercial liability

Kwinter 1981-2, 2866.

Insurance, crop

Burak R304; Ediger R464-8, R471; Lane 3721; G.I. Miller R466-7; Ramsay 3720-1, R323, R468-9; Riddell 3721, R297-8, R464-7; D.W. Smith R467-8, R471; Stevenson R311-2, R463-6, R469.

Insurance, depositors (*see* Share and Deposit Insurance Corp.)

Insurance, farm/farmers

Barlow R350-1; Hayes R353; Riddell 462, R298, R331-3, R349-52; Spencer R350; Stevenson 462, R309-10; Villeneuve R347-8.

Insurance, general, compensation plan

Kwinter 4073.

Insurance, motor vehicle

Foulds 2733-4, 2799-800; Grossman 2733-4, 2800; Kwinter 1952, 2733-4, 2799-800; Philip 1951-2; Runciman 2733.

Insurance, municipality

Brandt 2640, R819; Breaugh R821; Grandmaître 2640, R814, R825-6; Grossman 2731-2; Kwinter 2731-2, 2798; Reville 2732-3, 2798.

Insurance, pollution damage

Bradley 1130-1.

Insurance, public liability

Conway 2707; Swart 2707.

Insurance agents/brokers

Gregory 2197; Kwinter 2196-7; Swart 2196-7.

Insurance exchange

Kwinter 2867.

Insurance rates/premiums

Andrewes 3716-7; Barlow 1951, 2875-6, R994-5; Brandt 2115, 2640, 2873, 2879-81, 3200; Breaugh 2898-9; Conway 2631-2, 2706-7, 2882-3; D.S. Cooke 3199-200; Cousens 3480; Davis 2706, 3126-7; Eakins T31, T49-50, T94; Epp 2890-1; Ferraro 2868-9; Foulds 2733-4, 2799-800, 2872, 2886-7; Fulton 2887-8; Gillies 3197; Gordon 2888-9; Grandmaître 2640; Gregory 1952, 2877, 2987, 3241, 3553; Grossman 1772-3, 2631, 2731-4, 2797-8, 2867-72, 2931, 2985, 3049-50, 3201, 3485; Haggerty T 92; Harris 2631; Hayes 2892-3, 3552; Jackson 2632, 2707; J.M. Johnson 2897-8; R.F. Johnston 3481; Kwinter 1950-2, 1981-2, 2114-5, 2181-2, 2360, 2731-4, 2797-801, 2865-74, 2876-7, 2899-901, 2931-2, 2934-5, 2985-7, 3049-50, 3126-7, 3194-201, 3235-6, 3241, 3485, 3552-3, 3716-7, 3780; Mackenzie 2896-7, 3197; Marland 2891-2; Martel 3198; Morin-Strom R1014; Offer 2893-6; O'Neil R1013-4; Peterson 1773-4; Pouliot T94; Rae 1773, 2868, 2870-1, 2881-2, 2931-2, 2985, 3049-50, 3194-6, 3200-1, 3235-6; Reville 2732-3, 2798, 2800-1, 2889-90; Rowe T24-5, T27-8; Runciman 2800, 2874, 2884-6, 3126, 3194-5, 3197-8, 3236, 3552; Secord T92-3; D.W. Smith R1013-4; Stevenson R351-2; Swart 1950-1, 2057, 2114-5, 2180-1, 2359-60, 2631, 2985-7, 3126-7, 3196, 3240-1, 3383, 3716-7, 3779-80; Sweeney 3383, 3480; Timbrell 2879; Wildman 1952, 3485, 3552-3.

Interest rates

R.F. Nixon 3777; Rae 3776; Timbrell 3777.

Interest rates, farm

Ediger R364; Ramsay 540-1, 4067; Riddell 540-1, 2979-80, 4067; Sheppard 541; Stevenson 644-5, R364.

Interest rates, mortgage

Curling 750.

Interim supply (*see* Supply motions)

Interim supply, re (*see* Supply motions, re)

Interministerial co-operation

G.H. Dean G96; Elston G95-6; Pope G95-6; Sorbara G433-4; Warner G422.

International Harvester Ltd.

Gillies 1526; Mackenzie 1525-6; O'Neil 1526.

International Nickel Co. (*see* Inco Limited)

Interprovincial co-operation

Barlow R988-9; Morin-Strom R1006; O'Neil R1005-6; J.A. Taylor R1006.

Interval housing, women's (*see* Hostels/shelters, emergency)

Intervener funding (*see* Financing citizen groups)

Invasion of privacy (*see* Privacy, invasion/protection of)

Investigation, St. Clair River pollution

Bradley 1565, 1601-2; Grier 1601-2; Rae 1565.

Investment, Canadian

Shymko 1363-4.

Investment, foreign

Bennett 3467; O'Neil 3467.

Investments

O'Neil R982-3.

Job creation program (*see* Employment creation/programs)

Job evaluation/plan
Caplan 2729.

Job security (*see* Workers' rights/protection)

Johns-Manville Co. Ltd. (*see* Manville Canada Inc.)

Judgements, court (*see* Court judgements/orders)

Judges
Caplan 2597, 2691; O'Connor 2597, 2690-1.

Judges, provincial/county/district
Caplan 1095-6; O'Connor J13; Pope 208-9; I.G. Scott J21.

Justices of the peace
O'Connor J38; I.G. Scott J39.

Justices of the peace, Indian
I.G. Scott J9-10.

Juvenile offenders (*see* Offenders, young)

Juveniles, group homes for (*see* Group homes)

Kawartha Downs racetrack
Kwinter 3479-80, 3722-3; Morris T72; Sheppard T71-2; Turner 3479, 3722-3.

Key charges, tenants
Curling 1043; McClellan 1043; McFadden 1043.

Laboratories/services
D.S. Cooke G40-1; R.G. Elgie 103, 149-50; Mackenzie 103, 149, 171-2.

Labour Ministry/personnel
Gillies R491-2; Mackenzie R502-3; Wrye R484-5.

Labour organizations
R.G. Elgie 160; Fontaine 3978-9.

Labour Relations Board
Abella R596-601; Armstrong R597, R599-601; Gillies R598-9; Mackenzie R503, R596-8, R600-1; Pathe R600; Wrye R597-601.

Labour-management relations
R.G. Elgie 103, 160-2; Fontaine 3978-9; Mackenzie 103; Peterson 408.

Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital
Grier 110.

Land, agricultural (*see* Farms/farm lands)

Land assembly/banks
Riggs R945-9.

Land Corporation, Ontario
Curling R945; Knight 1191; R.F. Nixon 1054-5; Riggs R945-9; South R946.

Land drainage (*see* Drainage/program)

Land holdings, government
Ashe 2002; Caplan 1958, 1972, 2001-2, 2006, 2210-1; McGuigan R949; Riggs R949; Stephenson 2011-2; Villeneuve 1962-3; Wiseman 2001-2.

Land registrars/registration
Martel 1677.

Land severances
Hayes R949-50; J.M. Johnson R445-6; McGuigan R452-3; Pinder R444-5, R453; Ramsay R452; Riddell R443-6, R452-3; Stevenson R442-5; Villeneuve R449-50.

Land titles (*see* Land registrars/registration)

Land use/planning
Riddell 3773-4, R341-2.

Landfill/sites
Bradley 1991-2, 3482; Charlton 199, 373; Davis 420; Fish 291, 372-3, 1991; Grier 1234-5, 1991, 2806, 3482; Higgin R802; R.F. Johnston 420; Mancini R799; McGuigan R802; Peterson 420, 1234-5, 2806; Rae 1234; Sorbara 372-3; Treleaven 1234.

Landlord/tenant
Curling 2465, 2532; Gordon 2465, R864; McClellan 2532; Rae 80.

Language rights
Shymko 1365.

Languages/instruction
Leluk 302, G278; Munro G268-9, G336.

Latimer, Robert
Bennett 2960; Wrye 2960.

Latvian Independence Day
Ruprecht 1555; Shymko 1555-6.

Law of trusts (*see* Family/property law)

Lawyers' fees/salaries
Mancini 1603-4; McClellan 2960; Rae 1603; I.G. Scott 1603-4; Wrye 2960.

Layoffs (*see* Unemployment/layoffs)

Lead poisoning
Fish 67; McGuigan 67; Reville 67.

Learning disabilities (*see* Children, exceptional)

Leave of absence
Mackenzie 2536.

Legal aid/clinics
Brandt J23-4; Fish J24-6, J36-8; Gigantes J22, J26; Lane J22; O'Connor J13-4; Polsinelli J38; I.G. Scott J7-9, J21-5, J33-8; Warner I214, J31-6.

Legislative building/grounds
Caplan 1970; Gordon 693, 744-5; Philip 1971; I.G. Scott 693, 745; Villeneuve 1963-4; Warner 1971-2.

Legislative library/research service
Epp G20-1; Land G20.

Legislative Pages, lists of (*see* Pages, legislative, lists of)

Legislative procedures/rules
Breaugh 1079, 1567-8, 1917, 1920; Cousens 1081; Cureatz 1936-40; Foulds 1080; Martel 469, 657-8; McCaffrey 239-40; McClellan 1081; Newman 1934; I.G. Scott 1080-1; Sterling 1079; Treleaven 1928.

Legislative program statement (*see* Government policy statements/papers)

Legislative standing orders, re
Breaugh 1567-8, 1917-20, 1922-3; Mancini 1925-6; Martel 1930-3; Newman 1934; Treleaven 1928-9.

Liberal-NDP accord (*see* Minority government)

Libraries
Grande G292, G350; Leluk 362; Marland G281; Munro G269, G272, G335, G350.

Libraries, university/college
Sorbara 832.

Library, Legislative (*see* Legislative library/research service)

Licence plate bureaus/personnel
Fulton 2963-4; Gregory 2963.

Licences, business
Fulton 3690; Gregory 3690.

Licences, cutting (*see* Licences, timber/cutting)

Licences, drivers
Barlow 1138; Fulton 1159-60; R.F. Nixon 1138; Sorbara G441; Warner G439; W.G. Wolfson G441.

Licences, drivers, suspended (*see* Drivers, suspended/disqualified)

Licences, grain elevators
Hayes R354; McDermid R354.

Licences, hunting/fishing
Eakins T38, T41, T50; Harris 2721, 3547, 3551, 3848; Kerrio 2721-2, 3546-7, 3551; Laughren 3551, 3848; McLean T41; Peterson 3848; Rowe T29; Sheppard T38.

Licences, liquor (*see* Licences/permits, alcoholic beverages)

Licences, liquor stores/agencies
Kwinter 2969; Runciman 2969.

Licences, motor vehicle
Barlow 1138; R.F. Nixon 1138.

Licences, PCV
Fulton 4042-3; Gregory 4042; Philip 4042-3.

Licences, taxi
Grandmaître 2628.

Licences, timber/cutting
Kerrio 464; Laughren 464.

Licences/permits, alcoholic beverages
Elston G161-2; Gordon 693; I.G. Scott 693-4; Villeneuve G161-2.

Lieutenant Governor, re
F.S. Miller 784; Peterson 784; Rae 784.

Liquor/beer/wine
Grossman 2418-9; Kwinter 2226-7, 2349, 2418-9; Swart 2419.

Liquor boards
Kwinter 506, 3779; Runciman 506; Timbrell 3779.

Liquor licences/permits (*see* Licences/permits, alcoholic beverages)

Livestock
Stevenson 316-7.

Loan companies (*see* Trust/loan companies)

Loans/grants, education/academic (*see* Loans/grants, universities/colleges)

Loans/grants, farmers
Bardecki R469-73; Burak R304, R355, R471, R474-5; F.S. Miller 141-2, 578, 644; G.I. Miller R472; Munro 1153-4; R.F. Nixon 943, 1056, 3777; Peterson 411; Pierce 225; Poirier 1216; Rae 579, 645-6; Ramsay 142, 540-1, 646-9, R318, R322, R343, R355, R473; Reycraft 215; Riddell 141-2, 540-1, 578, 644-9, 1140, 1449-50, 2417, 2979-80, 2989-90, 3482-3, R297, R341-3, R469, R472-6; Sheppard 1193; D.W. Smith R355, R471-3; Spencer R352; Sterling 579; Stevenson 215, 329, 644-5, 649, 943, 1140, 2989-90, 3482-3, R311, R469-70, R474-8; Timbrell 3777; Villeneuve 646, 943, 990-1, R347, R470-1.

Loans/grants, flood/erosion control
Grandmaître 2722.

Loans/grants, housing
Callahan 1194; Curling 2456-7, 2465; Gordon 3381; Lupusella 1743-4; McCague 1115-6; McClellan 1165-6, 2465, 3381; F.S. Miller 1043; R.F. Nixon 1056-7, 1166, 3381; Peterson 1043.

Loans/grants, Indian groups
Fontaine 3985; Lane 3983.

Loans/grants, industries
Brandt 362-3; Lupusella 1580; Wildman 3973.

Loans/grants, municipalities
Barlow 1306-7, R850; Brandt 2596, R817-9, R826-7, R852-3, R857-8; Breaugh 764-5, 1185-6, R820-3; Charlton 200; E.M. Fleming R826-7, R829, R851, R857-8; Grandmaître 765, 1223, 2596, 2707-8, R825-6, R828, R850-3; Hayes R850-3; Knight 1191; McGuigan R853; R.F. Nixon 1058, 1306-7; Pierce R852; J.A. Taylor R829, R851; Van Horne 166.

Loans/grants, school boards
Allen 270-1, 943-4, 1170, 1293-4, 1311-3, 1542, 1880-1, 2736; Charlton 201; Conway 943-4, 1170, 1542-3, 1879-82, 1884, 1886-9, 2736-7; Davis 1889, 2737; Grandmaître 1224; Grossman 1879-82, 1888; Munro 1151; R.F. Nixon 1055, 1058; Offer 235; Peterson 456-7; Pope 1886; Rae 454, 456-7, 1882, 1887; Reville 229; E.J. Smith 267; Stephenson 457, 1884.

Loans/grants, separate school boards
Allen 270-1, 459, 592-8, 838, 944, S8, S10, S12, S15-6, S18-9, S30-1, S50-1, S61-2, S64, S66, S75-6, S90-2, S96-100, S106, S131-3, S145-8, S150, S154-5, S157, S181, S196-8, S213-9, S240-2, S255-6, S277, S297-300, S328-31, S339-41, S394, S480-1, S564-5, S652-3, S693-4, S731, S786, S818-9, S856-9, S915-7, S944-5, S953-4, S977-9, S1022-5, S1071-2, S1175-8, S1210-1, S1230-1, S1246-7, S1257, S1273-5, S1324-6, S1358-9, S1383-4, S1429-30, S1435-6, S1440-1, S1459, S1471, S1476, S1479, S1492-4, S1501-2, S1513-4, S1664, S1705-6, S1730, S1897-9, S1923-4, S1929-30, S1934-5, S2065-6, S2077-8, S2110, S2113-5, S2121-3, S2211-2, S2238-9, S2248, S2252, S2259-60, S2263-4, S2267-71, S2279-81, S2293-4, S2325-30, S2332, S2335-8; Ashe 713-5; Baetz 707-9; Bernier S1430,

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Loans/grants, small businesses

Caplan 3486, 3555; Fontaine 3983; Harris 3485-6, 3555; Lane 3981; F.S. Miller 686; R.F. Nixon 686.

Loans/grants, students

Bryden G368, G372-3, G387-8; Clarkson G387-8, G401; Cordiano 1357; McKessock G381-2, G401; Sorbara 3121-2, G359-60, G380-2, G387-8; Warner G420.

Loans/grants, tourist operators

Brock T52-3; Eakins 2969, T5, T50, T 53-4, T83; Fontaine 3266; Gordon 744-5; Rowe 2969, T52-3, T83; I.G. Scott 745.

Loans/grants, universities/ colleges

Allen 1293, 1313; Bryden 3440, G368-73, G386-7; Callahan 1196; Cordiano 1356-8; Cummins G384-5; McFadden G383-5; Munro 1151; R.F. Nixon 1057-8; E.J. Smith 267; Sorbara 831-2, 3440, G358-61, G378-9, G384-7.

Lockouts (*see* Strikes/lockouts)

Lodging homes (*see* Rest homes)

Logging/lumbering

Barlow R989; Bernier 3922; O'Neil R1007-8; Wildman 989-90.

Lottery, Wintario

Eakins 1974; Warner 1974.

Lottery Corporation, Ontario

Baetz 1340; Eakins 3134, T57, T70-1; Grande T69-71; Morris T69-74; R.F. Nixon 1340; Rowe T73; Sheppard T71-2; Swart 3134.

Lottery revenue

Marland G304-6, G337-8; Munro G304-6, G335-8; Wood G305.

Lottery ticket distributors

Eakins 3134, T73; Morris T73; Pouliot T 73; Rowe T72-3; Swart 3134.

Lumbering (*see* Logging/ lumbering)

Machinery, mining (*see* Mining equipment/machinery)

Mafia (*see* Crime, organized)

Magazines (*see* News media/ periodicals)

Maintenance orders (*see* Family law orders)

Malnutrition (*see* Dietitians/ nutrition)

Management board (*see* Cabinet/ management board/personnel)

Management training programs/ courses

R.F. Nixon 1573.

Manpower commission (*see* Commission, manpower)

Manuals, administration

Caplan 2209-10; Philip 2209.

Manufacturing (*see* Industries, secondary)

Manville Canada Inc.

Gillies 2934; Mackenzie 2934; Wrye 2934, 3059.

Maple Leaf gold coins

Andrewes 2509-11; Ashe 1428; G.H. Dean 1425; Foulds 1425, 2512-3; Harris 1430-1, 2513-5; McCague 1120; F.S. Miller 1102-3; R.F. Nixon 1103, 1424, 1434, 2511-2.

Margarine

Riddell 3468, R330-1; Sterling 3468; Stevenson R309.

Marinas

Caplan 3486, 3555; Harris 3485-6, 3555.

Marketing, beef (*see* Marketing, livestock)

Marketing, farm products

Collin R300-2, R373-7; Milne R374; Ramsay R324-6, R345-6; Riddell R298-9, R328, R344-6, R373; Slemko R375-6; D.W. Smith R345-6, R375-6; Stevenson R307-8, R312, R372-5; Villeneuve R376-7.

Marketing, fruit/vegetable

Collin R369-70; Ediger R370; McGuigan R372, R377; McKessock R377-8; Ramsay R370-1; Riddell R368-9, R377; Slemko R369-72, R377-8; Stevenson R368, R370-2.

Marketing, livestock

Collin R428; McGuigan R428-9; Ramsay R427-8; Rennie R428; Riddell R341, R428.

Marketing, vegetable (*see* Marketing, fruit/vegetable)

Marshlands (*see* Wetlands)

Massey-Ferguson Ltd.

Armstrong R546; Gillies 1386-7, 3443, R545; Grossman 336; Mackenzie R543-4; R.F. Nixon 2523-5; Wrye R544.

Masters Games

Baetz 1955; Eakins 681, 1955-6, T8.

Maternity/paternity leaves
I.G. Scott J4; Wrye R487.

McMichael Canadian collection
C. Bell G327-8; M. Bell G328-9; Marland G328-9; Wiseman G329.

Meat packers/processors
Ferraro R402-3; Rennie R402-3.

Meat products
Kwinter 1605-6; O'Neil 1604-5, 1667-8; Peterson 1667; Rae 1605-6, 1667; Runciman 1604-5, 1666-8.

Medical devices/supplies, personal (*see* Assistive devices/ supplies, medical)

Medical operations (*see* Surgical procedures)

Medical transplants
Poirier 2599; Van Horne 38-9, 165.

Members, committees (*see* Committee members/substitution, standing) (*see* Committee members/substitution, select)

Members, named, list of
Gillies 904; Gordon 3133; Rowe 1309.

Members, naming of, re
Gregory 1390; McClellan 1389-90; R.F. Nixon 1389-90.

Members' access to information
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Members' assistants/secretaries
Caplan 3312-4; Philip 3313-4; Stephenson 3313-4.

Members' ethics/conduct
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Members' leaving chamber
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Members' leaving chamber, re
R.F. Nixon 3304.

Members' mail
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Elston 1046; Gordon 1046.

Members'/ministers' correction of record
Barlow 2427; D.S. Cooke 2730; R.F. Johnston 2288; I.G. Scott 2427; Warner 374.

Members'/ministers' facilities
Eakins T44-5; Epp G17-8; R.J. Fleming G14-5; Gregory G14-5, G17-8; McCague G18; McClellan G13-5, G18; Mitchinson G14; Morin G17; Schoenberger G17; E.J. Smith G17.

Members/ministers imputing motives
McClellan 1625.

Members'/ministers' indemnity/ allowance
Lupusella 2683-5; McCaffrey 240; McClellan 2682-3; R.F. Nixon 2598-9; Timbrell 2682.

Members'/ministers' pensions
McCague 915; R.F. Nixon 2599.

Members'/ministers' privileges
Breaugh 2878, 3136; Gillies 1812; Grossman 2226; McClellan 1812; R.F. Nixon 2198, 2226; Peterson 1812; Rae 1812, 2225; Reville 1811-2; Shymko 3384.

Members'/ministers' remarks, re
Bernier 2355; Cureatz 1241; Eakins T26; Fontaine 2354, 2411; Gillies 1335; Grossman 1815-6, 2226; Kwinter 1605; McClellan 1241, 2700; F.S. Miller 412-3; R.F. Nixon 2226, 2355; Peterson 412-3, 1815-6; Pierce 2288, 2354, 2410-1; Rae 412, 2225, 3380; Riddell 422; Rowe T26; Runciman 849-50; Sorbara 909; Timbrell 2354-5, 2398, 2700, 3380.

Members'/ministers' remarks, withdrawal of
Cousens 1625; Gordon 694; Harris 3950; Lupusella 2716; Peterson 3380.

Members'/ministers' tours/travel
Fontaine 3263; Grandmaître R975; Guindon R975; Leluk 2637, G345-7;

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Members' resignations

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Mental health, community treatment

Elston G34.

Mental health/illness

D.S. Cooke G255-6; Corder G256; Elston G256-7.

Mental health patients (*see* Patients, mental health)

Mental hospitals (*see* Hospitals, psychiatric/mental)

Merchants

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Mercury/poisoning

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Merit pay, civil servants (*see* Civil servants' merit pay)

Metal processing (*see* Smelters/ refineries)

Methanol/alcohol (*see* Gasoline/oil substitutes/conversion kits)

Metro Toronto convention centre (*see* Trade/convention centres)

Metro zoo (*see* Zoological gardens)

Microchip technology (*see* Technology/science)

Microcomputers (*see* Computers/ microcomputers)

Midwives

D.S. Cooke 462-3, 1889, G37; Elston 927, 3372-3, G233; Pope 463; I.G. Scott 463.

Milk prices

Bernier 2959; Fontaine 3265; Riddell 1306; Wildman 1305-6.

Milk producers (*see* Farming, dairy)

Minaki Lodge

Bennett 212; Bernier 2950-1, 2956, 3241; Boyer T81; Eakins 212, 3241, T10, T80; Fontaine 3881-2, 3979; Haggerty T81-3; Hennessy T82; Keenan T81, T83; Pouliot T13, T80-3; Rowe T25, T79-80; Wildman 3976.

Mine safety (*see* Safety, mine)

Mineral processing (*see* Smelters/ refineries)

Mines, abandoned/shutdown

Bernier 218, 2802; Fontaine 2051-2; Foulds 2051-2; Kerrio 3055; Laughren 3055; R.F. Nixon 3550-1; Peterson 2802; Pierce 217-8; Pope 2052, 3055; Rae 3550-1; Wildman 988.

Mines/mining

R.G. Elgie 206; Fontaine 2943-4, 3881, 3923-4; Peterson 411; Pierce 225-6, 1290; Wildman 3252-3.

Minimum wage (*see* Wage, minimum)

Mining, nickel

Laughren 2634; Martel 1322-4; Morin-Strom R1004; Peterson 2634; Rae 2634; Wildman 3257.

Mining, uranium

T. Campbell R744-5; Gordon R744-5.

Mining equipment/machinery

Martel 470, 1323, 3886-7; Morin-Strom 237-8.

Mining exemptions

Martel 1322-3.

Mining municipalities

Wildman 3976-7.

Mining reserve fund, proposed

Wildman 988-9.

Mining resources/management

Harris 357.

Ministerial responsibility

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Ministerial statements, re

Grossman 535; Harris 3547; Mancini 1927; McClellan 3774; Riddell 3774; Timbrell 3774.

Ministers, access to

Gordon 1300; Grossman 1518-20; F.S. Miller 786-8, 1160-1, 1379, 1383; Peterson 787-8, 1160-1, 1300, 1379-80, 1383, 1518-20; Rae 787-8, 1161, 1379, 1519.

Ministers, deputy

Caplan 2247; Gillies 2246-7; Philip 2246-7.

Ministers, official tours/visits

Cousens 3465.

Ministers' attendance in committees (*see* Members'/ ministers' attendance in Legislature/committees)

Ministers' attendance in Legislature (*see* Members'/ ministers' attendance in Legislature/committees)

Ministers' facilities (*see* Members'/ ministers' facilities)

Ministers' meetings

Bennett 3467; O'Neil 3467.

Ministers without portfolio, re

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Ministries/offices, relocation of

Archer A11-2; Caplan 1995-8; Philip 1993-8, A9-11.

Ministry of Women's Issues (*see* Women's issues/directorate)

Ministry reorganization

Bernier 3246-7, 3895; Fontaine 504, 3896; Grande T32-3; Partington 3706; Pope 504; Sorbara 3706; Wildman 503-4.

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Personnel services, government
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Institute for Studies in Education report ('84/'85) 2198; Labour Ministry report ('84/'85), re 1529; Urban Transportation Development Corp., re 2237.

Petitions presented

Baetz 1992; Barlow 222, 910; Bernier 2360; Bossy 1462; Brandt 909, 2741; Bryden 37, 3850, 4012; Callahan 3135; Charlton 765; D.R. Cooke 588, 847, 945, 987, 2471, 3243, 3850; Davis 3850; Eakins 104, 946; Elston 221-2; Epp 1463; Eves 2708; Ferraro 151, 695, 3243; Gillies 3951; Grier 152; Guindon 849, 946, 2471, 3135; Haggerty 104, 847, 946, 1608; Hayes 104, 1463; Henderson 1388, 4012, 4072; Hennessy 330, 422, 2198, 3486, 4011; Jackson 546, 1785, 1993, 2708, 3243, 3917; J.M. Johnson 151, 987; R.F. Johnston 1785; Kerrio 36; Keyes 104; Lane 330; Laughren 222, 695, 765, 797, 1676; Leluk 1171; Mancini 104; Martel 151; McCague 849, 2708; McGuigan 330, 1676; McKessock 36-7, 422, 1170; McLean 152, 2598; McNeil 987; G.I. Miller 37, 221, 910, 1052, 1462; Morin 587, 797, 1141, 2741; Morin-Strom 546, 695, 1529, 2807, 3135; Munro 221; O'Connor 221-2, 329; Offer 653, 848, 2598; O'Neil 104, 1108; Partington 848, 1823; Philip 911, 2878; Pierce 1242, 2597, 2877, 4012; Pollock 1566, 3384, 3724, 4012; Polsinelli 1347; Pope 2302, 3628, 4072; Pouliot 2877; Ramsay 3692; Reycraft 848-9, 911, 987, 1347, 2470; Rowe 588, 2598; Runciman 2471; Sargent 4012; Sheppard 464, 1052, 3628; Shymko 847, 3785; D.W. Smith 104, 3558; E.J. Smith 2708; Swart 103, 2640; J.A. Taylor 374, 987; Treleaven 797; Van Horne 38; Villeneuve 1052, 2741; Ward 289, 1823, 2360, 3558; Wildman 911, 2120, 2471, 2877, 3060; Wrye 151.

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Picketing, police involvement (*see* Police involvement in labour disputes)

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Planning, community (*see* Community planning/programs)

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Planning, highway/road (*see* Highway/road planning)

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Prisoners, alternative programs

D.R. Cooke 228.

Prisons (*see* Correctional institutions)

Privacy, invasion/protection of

Caplan 2203-4; Gigantes 3956-9; O'Connor 3959-63; I.G. Scott 3952, 3959-64; Sterling 3952-6.

Private members' public business

Allen 1464; Bryden 3852; Davis 3137; J.M. Johnson 1900; McClellan 2361; McGuigan 1472; Morin 1890; Partington 1253; Pierce 1678; Reycraft 1242; South 3863; Sterling 3385; Ward 2369.

Private members' public business, re

R.F. Nixon 1141, 1389, 1539, 1743, 1823, 2992, 3204, 3311-2, 4076; Van Horne 164-5.

Probation officers

D.R. Cooke 228.

Processors, food (*see* Food processors/products)

Procurement policy, government

Caplan 1945-6, 2205-6.

Propane conversion (*see* Gasoline/ oil substitutes/conversion kits)

Property law (*see* Family/property law)

Property tax credits (*see* Tax credit, property)

Prorogation speech

4096-7.

Prospecting (*see* Exploration, oil/gas)

Prosthetic devices (*see* Assistive devices/supplies, medical)

Prostitution/charges

Eves 985; Sweeney 574-5, 985.

Provincial Auditor's Office/personnel

Archer A3-6, A12, A14-6; Ashe A4-5; Gillies A15; Philip 1348-50, 2200-1, A6-9; Wildman A15-6.

Provincial savings office

G.H. Dean 1577; Lupusella 1583, 1746-7; R.F. Nixon 1752-3, 1792-3, 2980-1; Philip 1789-90.

Provincial-municipal affairs

R.F. Nixon 1057.

Psychiatrists/services

Caplan 2532-3, 3481; D.S. Cooke 2532, 3481, 3775; Corder G119-20; Dyer G116; Elston 3775-6, G116, G118-20; Gordon G116; Mackenzie 2532-3; Pope 3774-5, G118-20.

Public complaints commissioner/office of (*see* Police complaint procedures)

Public consultation/forums

Gigantes 3379; Gillies 3379; I.G. Scott 538, 3370-1, 3379; Timbrell 538.

Public defender system

Warner J33.

Public health (*see* Health, public)

Public health units

D.S. Cooke G236-7; Elston 1048, 1052, G236-7; Gordon 1048; Kealey G236-7; Sheppard 1052.

Public ownership, resource industries (*see* Nationalization, resource industries)

Public servants (*see* Civil servants/Crown employees)

Public service arbitration board (*see* Arbitrators/arbitration)

Public service superannuation fund

Caplan 3312-4; Philip 3313-4; Stephenson 3313-4.

Publications, government

Grandmaître R816; Riddell R333, R365; Snell R365; Stevenson R310, R365; Villeneuve R348.

Publicity (*see* Advertising/publicity)

Publishers, Canadian

Grande 1523-4, G283, G287; Munro G298-300; Peterson 1524.

Pulp/paper companies

T. Campbell R737-8; Fontaine 3883; Kerrio R738; Pierce R738; Wildman 3257-8.

Purchasing, government

Caplan 1959-60, 1968, 2005-6; Philip 1965, 2014; Stephenson 2010.

Quebec-Ontario relations

Bennett 2233; Grossman 2045-6; McClellan 2046; O'Neil 2233; Peterson 2045.

Queen's Counsel, re

Peterson 2288-9.

Queensway, Ottawa (*see* Highway 417 (Ottawa Queensway))

Question period, re

Breaugh 1919-20; Cureatz 1940; Grossman 1888; Harris 1233, 1889, 3443-4; R.F. Johnston 909, 1889; Mancini 1926-7; McClellan 1889, 3444, 3557-8; Newman 1934; R.F. Nixon 3304, 3558; Rae 3444; Timbrell 3557.

Questions on notice paper (*see* Answers to questions on notice paper)

Quorum calls

Bernier 3251; Breaugh 3500; Conway 3318, 3320; D.S. Cooke 3004; Davis 2944, 3420; Gillies 3667; Guindon 3505; Harris 3394, 3399; Mackenzie 3448; McCague 3824; McClellan 2484; McLean 3529; Morin-Strom 3664; O'Connor 3397; Pope 3326, 3667; Sheppard 3418; Sterling 3734; Villeneuve 3493.

Race relations cabinet committee (*see* Committee, race relations)

Race relations commission (*see* Commission, race relations)

Racehorses (*see* Horseracing/ racetracks)

Racism (*see* Discrimination, racial)

Racist literature (*see* Hate propaganda)

Radiation, natural

Armstrong R561; Martel 2357; Wrye 2357, R561.

Radioactive waste (*see* Waste, nuclear/radioactive)

Radon gas (*see* Radiation, natural)

Railway lines, abandoned

Eakins T40; Keenan T41; McGuigan T41; Pollock T39-40.

Railway passenger service

Fontaine 1048-9, 3266-7; Fulton 3705-6; Harris 1048-9; McCague 3705; Wildman 1049.

Rainy River system

Bernier 1240, 1563; Bradley 1240-1, 1563; Pierce 1239-40, 1563; Pouliot 1240.

Rape crisis centres (*see* Sexual assault crisis centres)

Rape/sex offences

Fish 1821, 2052; Gillies 3234-5, 3360-1, 3378, 3428-9; O'Connor 2117, 2358-9; Rae 3235; I.G. Scott 1821, 2052, 2117, 2358-9, 3234-5, 3361-2, 3378, 3429.

Rapid transit (*see* Transit, public)

Reassessment (*see* Assessment/ reassessment)

Records, adopted children (*see* Children, adopted, records)

Records, confidentiality of (*see* Privacy, invasion/protection of)

Recreation/facilities

Eakins T6-9; Rowe T94; Secord T91.

Recycling waste (*see* Waste recycling)

Redistribution, electoral constituencies

Ashe 851-2; Bailie G4-8; Barlow 520-1; Brandt 863-4; Breaugh 514-8; Conway 2431-4; D.S. Cooke 807-8; Cordiano 2845-746; Cousens 810-1; G.H. Dean 857-8; Eakins 518-20; Elston 506-8, 804-6; Epp G4; Eves 818-9; Grandmaître 2722; Gregory 512-4, G4-5, G7; Grier 811-2; Haggerty 1123-4; Harris 2641-2; Hayes 803-4; Henderson 808-10; Jackson 2443-4, 2742-3; Kerrio 2743-4; Knight 858-9; Leluk 2756-8; Lewis G6; Mancini 2435-40; Marland 861-2; McClellan 2430-1, G6-7; McGuigan 2754-6; McKessock 510-2; McLean 2428-30; G.I. Miller 852-4; R.C. Mitchell 799; Morin 855-7; Munro 812; R.F. Nixon 3444-5; Offer 1122-3; Philip 815-6; Pollock 806-7; Polsinelli 2758; Reycraft 862-3; Riddell 2441-3; Runciman 865-6; Sargent 801, 2748-9; Sheppard 2758-9; Shymko 801-3; D.W. Smith 860-1; E.J. Smith G4-8; Sorbara 850-1; South 864-5; Stephenson 2434-5; Sterling 2749-54; Stevenson 813-5; Stewart G4, G7; Timbrell 508-9; Treleaven 859-60; Turner 2746-8; Villeneuve 854-5; Wildman 509-10; Wiseman 2744-5; Wrye 816-8.

Refineries, metal (*see* Smelters/ refineries)

Reforestation (*see* Forest regeneration/reforestation)

Regional chairmen

Ward 258.

Regional development/councils

Bernier 1820, 3246; Fontaine 1820, 2942-3, 3268, 3880, 3883-4, 3900, 3979, 4039; O'Neil R982; Poirier 1217-8; Ramsay 1820; Wildman 3261, 3974.

Regional/district councils

Breaugh 2614-5, 2617-8; Cureatz 2616; Fontaine 975, 2615-7; Grandmaître 2616-8; Sterling 2616; Timbrell 2614.

Regional/district municipalities

Grandmaître 835-6.

Regional municipality, Durham

Ashe 2615-7; Breaugh 2614-5, 2617-8; Cureatz 2616; Grandmaître 2616-8; Timbrell 2614.

Regional municipality, Hamilton-Wentworth

Allen 987, 1464-7, 2990; Callahan 1472; Charlton 1470-2; G.H. Dean 2303-4, 2990; Grandmaître 2303, 2990; Mackenzie 2304; Marland 1469-70; McGuigan 1472; Ward 1467-9.

Regional municipality, York

Cousens 1001-3.

Regional planning (*see* Municipal plans/studies)

Regional prices (*see* Price differential, regional)

Registry offices/divisions (*see* Land registrars/registration)

Regulations, Ontario (*see* Statutes/regulations, Ontario)

Rehabilitation, vocational

Cousens 2638; R.F. Johnston 2639; Sweeney 2638-9.

Religious groups (*see* Churches/religious groups)

Remembrance Day

Breaugh 1513; Foulds 1464; Gregory 1513; I.G. Scott 1513.

Rent, illegal

McClellan 1043-4, 1297, 1739-40, 2636; O'Connor 2636; I.G. Scott 1043-4, 1297, 1739-40, 2636-7.

Rent control/review

Ashe 467-8; Caplan 2680-1; G. Church R925-6; Curling 536-7, 900, 982-3, 2230-1, 2455-7, 2465-8, 2531-2, 2643-4, 2681-2, R919-22, R927-30, R935, R937-9, R945; Davis 431; G.H. Dean 2657-8; Fish 983, 2466-7, 2652-7; Gigantes 188; Gordon 536, 2531-2, 2644-9, R865-70, R909, R922, R925-6; Gregory 2467-8, 2668-74; Laverty R936-7; Lesurf R922-5; McCague 430, 1116; McClellan 536, 900, 982-3, 1042, 2649-52, R871-2, R935-9; McFadden 2230-1, 2667-8; McGuigan R922; F.S. Miller 536-7, 1042; R.F. Nixon 937; Peterson 408, 1042, 2588-9; Pierce R903, R920-2, R926, R945; Pitura R903; Rae 80; Shymko 113, 2658-61; J.A. Taylor R920-2; Timbrell 899-900, 937, 2465-6, 2588-9, 2674-80, R927-30; M. Wilson R938-9.

Rent registry

McClellan 379; R.F. Nixon 1057.

Rent supplements/subsidies

McClellan 2358.

Rental apartment conversions

Grandmaître 1049-50; Kwinter 940-1; Lesurf R924; McClellan 940; Peterson 4072; Philip 1049; Runciman 940; Shymko 1049-50, 1049-50, 4071-2.

Renter-buy program (*see* Loans/grants, housing)

Renwick, James A., re

Gigantes J19; I.G. Scott J3-4; Warner J31.

Report, agencies/boards/commissions committee (*see* Report, procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions committee)

Report, Darlington nuclear generating station, re

Andrewes 2302.

Report, domed stadium finances

Harris 2471.

Report, environmental hypersensitivity

Elston 2526.

Report, financial institutions task force

Kwinter 2459.

Report, forest management activity

Kerrio 1299-300, 1308-9; Laughren 1308; R.F. Nixon 2199.

Report, health/safety in agriculture task force
Wrye 1980-1.

Report, Imperial Bank of Commerce action
Breaugh 2878.

Report, northern environment commission, re
Bernier 2802, 2955; Fontaine 1665-6, 1670; Peterson 2802; Ramsay 1670; Wildman 1669-70, 2801-2, 3975.

Report, Oak Ridge Division, Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre
Elston 2525.

Report, private schools commission
Conway 1445.

Report, private schools commission, re
Conway 1458-9, 2359; Davis 1458-9, 2359.

Report, procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions committee
797, 873-92, 1917, 2807-8.

Report, Provincial Auditor
1809, 1878.

Report, Provincial Auditor, re
Caplan 1955, 2212; Elston 1883-4; Foulds 1955; Keyes 1882-3, 1885, 2300; Laughren 3690-1; Peterson 3690-1; Philip 1883, 1993-4, 2015-6; Pope 4078-80; Rae 1882-4; Wildman 1885, 2300.

Report, provincial courts committee ('84/'85)
Caplan 1095-6.

Report, public complaints commissioner ('84)
I.G. Scott 753.

Report, quarterly Ontario finances
Stephenson 91.

Report, St. Clair River pollution
Bradley 3615-7.

Report, standing orders and procedures
Breaugh 1567.

Report, wage protection commission of inquiry
Wrye 1770-1.

Report, workers' compensation committee
2057.

Report, workers' compensation committee, re
R.F. Nixon 1310-1.

Reporting service, Legislature (*see* Hansard reporting service)

Reports, annual
Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped ('85) 1335; Inflation restraint board ('85) 3952; Lottery Corp., ('85) 2629; Ombudsman ('84/'85) 449; Ontario Place ('84/'85) 1879; Provincial courts committee ('84/'85) 1095; Tourism and Recreation 1879; Workers' compensation ('84) 3165, R3-25, R29-48, R51-75, R79-101, R105-20, R123-49, R153-70, R173-97, R201-22, R225-46, R249-75, R279-92.

Reports, election contributions and expenses commission
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Reports, Ombudsman
Political killings/imprisonment/torture 3628.

Reports, Ombudsman, re
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Reports, Provincial Auditor
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Bradley 1758, 2965; D.S. Cooke G233-5; Elston G233-5; Fish 287-8, 2965; Gregory 1345; Grier 1758; Kerrio 898; Martel 897; F.S. Miller 144-5; Morin-Strom 1385; R.F. Nixon 1345-6, 4073; O'Neil 145, 1385; Peterson 1385; Rae 144-5.

Reports, select committees

Economic Affairs 1463, 2387; Energy 2302.

Reports, select committees, re

Andrewes 1878; McClellan 1878; McGuigan 1879; Rae 1878; Sargent 1879.

Reports, standing committees

General Government 1463, 1676, 2598, 3384, 3628, 3851; Justice, Administration of 1347, 2535, 3204, 3851; Ombudsman 3628; Procedural Affairs and Agencies, Boards and Commissions 797, 1567, 1917, 2807, 2878, 3136; Public Accounts 2120, 3628, 4013; Regulations and Private Bills 1052, 1242, 1463, 1676, 2120, 2361, 2640, 2878, 3136, 4073; Resources Development 2057, 2121, 2708, 3165, 3384, 3629, 3851, 3917, 4073; Social Development 1676.

Reports, standing committees, re

R.F. Nixon 1109, 1141.

Representation, electoral (*see* Redistribution, electoral constituencies)

Rescue services (*see* Emergency/ first aid services)

Research, academic

Bryden G370-1; McFadden G385; Sorbara 832, G361, G379-80, G385-6.

Research, agricultural

Allan R716-8; Ferraro R390-1; Haggerty R718; Hoag R437; Kerrio R716-8; McGuigan R437; G.I. Miller R436-7; Pettit R435-7; Rennie R304-5, R389-94, R436-7; Riddell R435, R437-8; D.W. Smith R394, R435, R716; Stevenson R390-1, R392-3, R436.

Research, animals (*see* Animals, research)

Research, energy

Barlow R991; Charlton R677; Greven R805-6; S. Johnson R793; Kerrio R658-60; O'Neil R1011; Pierce R793.

Research, medical

Blake G254; D.S. Cooke G253-5; Elston G254-5.

Research, municipal (*see* Municipal plans/studies)

Research, northern development

Wildman 3261.

Research, nuclear

Charlton 1953-4; Conway 1954; Mackenzie 1954.

Research, university (*see* Research, academic)

Research Foundation, Ontario

O'Neil R987.

Reservoirs, oil/gas

Bossy R762; Bradley 4068; Fish 4068; Grier 4067-8; Macaulay R761-3; D.W. Smith R761.

Residential care services, adult (*see* Group homes)

Residential Tenancy Commission (*see* Commission, Residential Tenancy)

Resolutions

Bryden 3852, 3872; Charlton 1686, 1696; Davis 3137, 3158; J.M. Johnson 1900, 1912; McGuigan 1482; Morin 1890, 1912; R.F. Nixon 422, 506, 654-5, 912, 1743, 2570, 3136, 3444; O'Neil 767; Partington 1253, 1264; Reycraft 1242, 1264; South 3863, 3873; Ward 2369, 2380.

Resolutions, re

R.F. Nixon 3918.

Resource recovery (*see* Waste recycling)

Rest homes

D.S. Cooke 2738, G44, G47-8; Elston 2738, G48; Warner 422.

Restitution by guilty (*see* Compensation, crime victims)

Retail merchants (*see* Businesses, retail)

Retarded, facilities, shutdown/ cutbacks

Ashe 421; R.F. Johnston 420-1; Sweeney 420-1.

Retarded, facilities for

Cousens 2425; Eves 63-4; R.F. Johnston 3223; Offer 63; Sweeney 1541-2, 1732-3, 2425, 3223; Villeneuve 1541.

Retarded children (*see* Children, retarded)

Retarded persons, abuse of

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Retirement/age (*see* Age, retirement)

Retirement pay (*see* Severance pay)

Retraining programs

Brandt 2427; G.H. Dean 1220-1; Gillies 137-8, 318-9, G425, R493, R495; McCague G452; Partington 2594-5; Peterson 2427; Sorbara 575-7, 2594-5, G450-2; Warner 1206.

Returning officers (*see* Election officers/poll clerks)

Revenue Ministry/personnel

G.H. Dean 1574-7; R.F. Nixon 1569-70, 1751-2.

Revenues, provincial

McCague 1461-2, 1524, 1670-1; R.F. Nixon 1054, 1461-2, 1524, 1671.

Review, agencies/boards/commissions (*see* Agencies/boards/commisions review)

Review, ministry programs

Caplan 2211-2.

RIDE program

Gillies 2423; Keyes 2423; Sargent 2422-3.

Road construction (*see* Construction, highways/roads)

Road maintenance (*see* Highway/road maintenance)

Road salt

Andrewes 3930; Lupusella 1746; Road salt (334) 3930.

Roads, Indian reservation (*see* Highways/roads, Indian reservations)

Roads, municipal/regional

Barlow 1306-7; Breaugh 1186; R.F. Nixon 1306-7.

Roads, winter

Fontaine 3879.

Rooming houses (*see* Housing, rooming)

Rounds, Adam

Gigantes 216; Pope 208, 216.

Royal Ontario Museum

E.A. Goodman G315-20; Grande G292-3, G315-21; Graupner G320-1; Marland G314-5; Young Jr. G313-5, G318-20.

Royalties, natural resources

Haggerty R772-3; Kerrio R773; MacOdrum R772; Rowan R772.

Runways (*see* Airports/airstrips)

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute

Bryden G386-7, G402; Sorbara G386-7, G402.

Safety, construction (*see* Health/safety, occupational)

Safety, farm

Wrye 1980-1.

Safety, farm vehicles

McGuigan R631-2; Sheppard R631; D.W. Smith R632-3; Wrye R631.

Safety, highway

Fulton 3459; Gregory 3459.

Safety, industrial (*see* Health/safety, occupational)

Safety, mine

R.G. Elgie 97-8; Fontaine 3881; Wildman 97-8; Wrye R624.

Safety, occupational (*see* Health/safety, occupational)

Safety, public transit

Fulton 4006; Hayes 4006; R.F. Johnston 4006.

Safety, sports

Baetz 1044; Eakins 1044-5; Martel 1044-5.

Safety committees, industrial (*see* Committees, occupational health and safety)

Safety inspection (*see* Inspection, health/safety)

St. Clair Parks/Commission

Eakins T10.

St. Clair River/pollution (*see* Pollution, St. Clair River)

St. Lawrence Parks/Commission

Cook T64-5; Eakins T10, T65; Rowe T25, T65; Sheppard T64-5.

St. Lawrence Seaway (*see* Great Lakes/Seaway system)

Salaries (*see* Wages/salaries)

Salary protection

Wrye 1770-1.

Sales missions (*see* Trade missions/offices)

Sawmills (*see* Forest industries/ products)

Scholarships (*see* Bursaries/ scholarships)

School boards

Conway 1325, 2631-2, 2706-7; Davis 2706; Gigantes 1325; Grossman 2631, 2731-2, 2797-8; Harris 2631; Jackson 2632, 2707; Kwinter 2731-2, 2797-8; Swart 2631.

School board-teacher relations

Allen 3139-41; Conway 3203; Davis 3137-9, 3146-7, 3203; Grande 3144-5; J.M. Johnson 3143-4; McGuigan 3146; Reycraft 3141-3.

School board-teacher relations, Wellington/Grey counties

Allen 1609-10, 1612-3, 1826-9; Baetz 1870-1; Barlow 1620-1; Callahan 1622-3; Conway 795, 842, 1325, 1337, 1386, 1458, 1564, 1604, 1613-5, 1673, 1767-8, 1786, 1843-4, 1861-5, 2191-2; Cousens 1623-5, 1838-40; Davis 1337, 1564, 1610-2, 1824-6, 1851-8, 2191; Ferraro 795, 1457-8, 1604, 1617-8, 1673, 1740, 1841-2; Foulds 1621-2, 1835-6; Gillies 1629-30; Grande 1830-2; Grossman 1771-2; Haggerty 1832-4; Harris 1608-9, 1741; Jackson 1618-9, 1834-5; J.M. Johnson 795, 841-2, 1337, 1386, 1458, 1564, 1604, 1615-6, 1673, 1740, 1829-30, 1865-6, 2191-2; Mackenzie 1616-7, 1840-1; Mancini 1627-9; Martel 1626-7, 1866-8; McKessock 842, 1385-6, 1836-8; R.F. Nixon 1610; Partington 1842-3; Peterson 1564, 1740-1, 1772; Rae 1858-61; Runciman 1868-9; Sargent 1386, 1619-20, 1672-3; Wildman 1869-70.

School enrolment (*see* Student enrolment)

School examinations/tests (*see* Student evaluation/examinations)

Schools

Cousens 1001-2.

Schools, agriculture

Ramsay R392; Rennie R304, R392; Switzer R392; J.A. Taylor R392.

Schools, art

Marland G281.

Schools, correctional (*see* Training schools, correctional)

Schools, French language

Allen 3322-6; Conway 752-3, 1527, 2346-7, 2361, 3315; Davis 3315-22; Grossman 363-4; Guindon 1527, 3486-8, 3488-90; Pope 3326-30; Pouliot 3330-2; Villeneuve 3332-4.

Schools, post-secondary (*see* Education, post-secondary)

Schools, private/independent

Conway 1445, 1458-9, 2359; Davis 1458-9, 2359.

Schools, separate

Conway 3849; Davis 3849.

Schools, separate, extended funding (*see* Loans/grants, separate school boards)

Schools, theological

Clarkson G401; McKessock G401.

Schools, veterinary

Rennie R393; Stevenson R393; Switzer R393.

Science (*see* Technology/science)

Science centre, Ontario

Caplan 2206-7; Stephenson 2011, 2206-7.

Science North, Sudbury

Gordon 3061-2, R660; Laughren 3062-3; Marland 3063-4, G280; Martel 3064-6; Munro 2628-9, 3060, 3066-7, G335.

Scrap/scrapyards

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Search-rescue operations (*see* Emergency/first aid services)

Secretariats, policy/personnel

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Securities commission/ regulations

Kwinter 2057.

Securities/industry

Kwinter 1824.

Security guards/agencies

Keyes 2803; Sterling 2802-3.

Senior citizens (*see* Aged/senior citizens)

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Ambulance workers' strike (178) 2216; A and P food stores (317) 3707; Blind River amalgamation, re (188) 1544; Conestoga Expressway noise barriers (191) 1544; Electoral districts redistribution (241) 2722; Environmental assessment report (174) 926; Family benefits assistance (49) 523; Funding of separate school boards (48) 523; Hail Mary film, re the (176) 1544; Hiring of ministry staff (303) 2721; Midwifery (90) 927; Ministers' visits (321) 3465; Moose tag lottery (127) 3707; North Claybelt Seminar (271) 2216; Ontario Hydro (62) 927; Pension plans (327) 3706; Policing contracts (247) 1761; Pornographic literature and videotapes (50) 524; Property tax assessment (311) 2965; Provincial parks (99) 927; Rescinding market value assessment, re (243) 2448; Sale of beer/wine in grocery stores (177) 1544; Shoreline protection/ assistance (268) 2722; Tourism and Recreation Ministry staff (326) 3705; Wellington county teachers' strike (189) 1325; Zalev Brothers scrapyard (56) 926.

Severance pay

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Severances, land (*see* Land severances)

Sewage disposal

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Sewerage (*see* Water/sewer services)

Sex offences (*see* Rape/sex offences)

Sexual assault crisis centres

Gillies 2933-4; I.G. Scott 2933-4.

Share and Deposit Insurance Corp.

Kwinter 2535; Swart 2535.

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Cousens 3997; Grossman 3998; R.F. Nixon 3998-9; Peterson 3997; Rae 3997.

Sheltered workshops (*see* Workshops, handicapped/ retarded)

Shorelines (*see* Beach properties/ shorelines)

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Single parent families (*see* Parents, single)

Skiing/facilities

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Skills Development Ministry, re

Davis 346; Gillies 136-8, 181-4, 996-7; Guindon 265; F.S. Miller 388.

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Gillies G423, G447, G452; Kidd G447-8; Partington 3706, G414-7, G446-8; Sorbara 3706, G407, G429-48; Warner G417-22.

Skills training (*see* Vocational/ trades training)

Slaughterhouses (*see* Abattoirs/ slaughterhouses)

Small business development corporations/programs

Barlow 2762-3, R995; Foulds 2771; Girvin R1017-8; Grandmaître 2472; Gregory 2771-3; R.F. Nixon 1057, 2762, 2774-5; O'Neil R986, R1016-8; Rowe 2773-4; Sterling R1016-8.

Small businesses (*see* Businesses, small)

Small businessmen (*see* Businesses, retail)

Smelters/refineries

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Smoking, tobacco

Elston 2236-7; Mancini 3389-90; Morin-Strom 3391-2; D.W. Smith 3393; Sterling 2121-2, 3385-7, 3393; Swart 3387-9; Treleaven 3390-1.

Sniffing harmful substances (*see* Inhaling harmful substances)

Social assistance allowances (*see* Welfare assistance, general) (*see* Family benefits assistance)

Social/family services

Breaugh R820; Cousens 3199; R.F. Johnston 2740-1, 2804-5, 3223; Munro 1152-3; Peterson 2740-1, 2804-5; Sweeney 3199, 3223-4; Warner 1211.

Social service agencies

Eves 1173.

Social workers

Barlow 147, 370; Eves 147, 370-1.

Soil, radioactive

Curling 786, 901; Timbrell 900-1.

Soil/crop management

McGuigan R421-5; Ramsay R424; Rennie R305; Riddell R299, R422, R425-6; D.W. Smith R404-5, R425; Spencer R404-5; Stevenson 315-6.

Solar energy (*see* Energy, solar/ wind)

Solvent abuse (*see* Inhaling harmful substances)

Sound walls (*see* Noise barriers)

Space shuttle Challenger

Grossman 3543; Peterson 3543; Rae 3543.

Spadina Expressway

Fulton 2426; Gregory 2426; McClellan 2426.

Speaker, elecion of

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Speaker, Office of the

Breaugh 1918; Cureatz 1940; Mancini 1924; Martel 1930; Newman 1933-4; Turner 26.

Speaker/Deputy Speaker, re the

Cureatz 1241; Grossman 38; McClellan 1241.

Speaker's rulings/comments

Adjournment of House, re 3304; Civil servants' political affiliation 3231; Committee reports, re 1945; Division bells, re 3444; Estimates, re the 681; Hansard reporting service, re 933, 2287; Internal Economy Board 493; Legislative pages, re 771; Members' access to information 535, 573; Members' privileges, re 1812, 1945, 2287, 3384; Members' remarks, re 933, 1605, 2287; Ministerial statements, re 3774; Ministers' answers to oral questions 535, 573; Ministers' remarks, re 2397-8, 3380; Motion to adjourn, re 762; Motion to set aside ordinary business 949, 1610, 2125, 3630; Naming of members 904, 1309, 3133; Naming of members, re. 1390; Notice of dissatisfaction, re 685; Petitions, re 987; Points of privilege, re. 1452; Question period, re 1233, 1523, 1607, 1888, 3204, 3303-4, 3557; Speaker's votes

3158; Speaker's votes, re 3203; Suspension of sitting 760, 1562, 2112, 4011; Television coverage of legislative proceedings 1551-2; Tribute to John M. Turner 1698; United Way campaign 1608.

Speaker's rulings/comments, re

Harris 1528; McClellan 1528; R.F. Nixon 1528.

Speaker's votes

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Speaker's warrants, re

Goodwin G27-8; McKessock G27-8.

Speed limits

Harris 3992.

Spillage/leakage, hazardous products/waste

Barlow R461-2; Bradley 494-5, 581-2, 844-5, 1129-31, 1559-60, 1946-7, 3374-7, 3483-844, 3784-5, 4070; Brandt 421-2, 582, 844; Charlton 3375, 3438-9, 3483, 3915-6; G.H. Dean 3374-6, 3484; Eves 4070; Fulton 422, 460-1; Grier 581-2, 845, 1559, 3376; Haggerty 3784; Hayes 422; Jackson 3439; Kerrio 3915-6; Mackenzie 3377; Marland 3376; McCague 430; McKessock 1051; R.F. Nixon 439; Peterson 421-2, 3439; Rae 1559-60, 4086; Riddell 651, 1051, R461; Stevenson 651; Villeneuve 1050-1; Wildman 4070.

Sports/athletics

Baetz 1044; Bryden 908, T35-7, T93; Eakins 908-9, 1044-5, T7-8, T31, T36, T 94; Halstead T36-7; Marland 909; Martel 1044-5, 1320-2; Rowe T28; Secord T93.

Sports centres (*see* Stadiums/ arenas)

Stadiums/arenas

Caplan 2422; Gillies 1737-8, 2421-2, 2534; Grossman 2527-9, 2629-30, 2698-9; Harris 2471; Maxwell T68; R.F. Nixon 1737-8; Peterson 2527-9, 2533-4, 2629-31, 2698-700, 3913; Philip 2533-4, 3913; Pouliot T13-4; Rae 2630; Reville 230, 1738, 2629; Sheppard T68; Sterling 3913.

Standing orders (*see* Legislative standing orders, re)

Stationary engineers (*see* Engineers, operating/stationary)

Statutes/regulations, Ontario

Bryden 1035-6; Gigantes 1035, 1085-6; Lupusella 1087; O'Connor 1035; Pope 138-41; I.G. Scott 1034-6, 1087-8, J5; Sterling 1036.

Steel Co. of Canada

R.F. Nixon 3550-1; Rae 3550-1.

Steel industry

Allanson R1018-9; Lavelle R1019; Morin-Strom R997; O'Neil R1007.

Stockyards

Peterson 1777; Shymko 1777; Stevenson 4080.

Stouffville landfill site

Charlton 373; Fish 373; Sorbara 372-3.

Strike, ambulance workers

Elston 1046, 2216; Swart 1045-6, 1108.

Strike, Kresge, Thunder Bay

Foulds 650-1, 693; Wrye 650-1, 692-3.

Strike, Metro Zoo workers

Mackenzie 1307; Peterson 1307.

Strike, Mississauga Transit

Offer 843; Wrye 843.

Strike, public health nurses

D.S. Cooke 1047-8, 2193-4, 3057; Elston 1047-8; Gillies 2193, 3057; Mackenzie 993-4; McGuigan 3057; Wrye 2193-4, 3057-8.

Strike, Royal Ontario Museum

Grande 985-6; Munro 986; Young Jr. G313.

Strike, Visa workers

Mackenzie 760-1; Wrye 761.

Strike votes (*see* Unions, voting in)

Strikebreaking

Mackenzie 2536, R555; Wrye R555-7.

Strikes, teachers (*see* School board-teacher relations)

Strikes/lockouts

Haggerty 152; Kealey G160; Poirier G160; Rae 78; Villeneuve G159-60.

Student assistance program (*see* Loans/grants, students)

Student dropouts (*see* Dropouts, students)

Student enrolment

Bossy G389-90; Sorbara G390-3; Wiseman G390-3.

Student evaluation/examinations

Van Horne 167.

Student venture capital program

Gillies G424; Sorbara G411.

Students, disciplined/suspended

Allen 2938-9; Conway 2939.

Students, exceptional (*see* Children, exceptional)

Students, foreign/visa

Bryden G373; Sorbara G382, G391-3; Wiseman G390-3.

Students, handicapped/disabled

Sorbara G360.

Students, health care

Elston 1052; Sheppard 1052.

Students/graduates, francophone

Allen R967-8; Grandmaître R967-8; Sorbara G361-2.

Subsidies

Gillies G441; Sorbara G441; Warner G439; W.G. Wolfson G441.

Subsidies, farm

G.H. Dean 1222-3; Riddell 279-80, 646-7; Stevenson 279-80, 316-7.

Subsidies, industrial (*see* Loans/grants, industries)

Subsidies, northern Ontario

Martel 472.

Subsidies, rent (*see* Rent supplements/subsidies)

Successor rights, workers (*see* Workers' rights/protection)

Sugar prices

Riddell 4005-6; Stevenson 4005-6.

Sulphur dioxide (*see* Acid rain)

Sulphuric acid

Martel 1323-4.

Suncor Inc.

Caplan 505, 2246; Charlton R782; Conway 93-4; Davis 431-2; Foulds 978, 1005; Gordon R667; Haggerty R780; Jackson R778, R780-1; Kerrio 977-8, R654, R684; Knight 1191; Kruger R778-82; Laughren R779; McCague 1113; McLean 1317; F.S. Miller 977-8, 1098-9; R.F. Nixon 1054-5; Peterson 219, 1098-9; Philip 505; Pierce R781-2; Rowan R778; Sargent 1177; Stephenson 94, 219, 2246; Villeneuve 991.

Sunday/holiday observance

Davis 2299; Epp 2298-9; Keyes 2730, 2930-1; I.G. Scott 2298-9; Sterling 2930-1; Swart 2299; Warner 2930-1.

Sunset law (*see* Agencies/boards/commisions review)

Supermarkets/chain stores

Kwinter 835, 1051-2, 2119-20, 3707; Mackenzie R516; Morin-Strom 999-1000, 1051-2, 2119-20; Runciman 2120.

Supply motions

R.F. Nixon 422, 912, 2570.

Supply motions, re

Cousens 1001-4; Davis 431-2; G.H. Dean 922, 2570-1; Foulds 425-9, 1004-7, 2571-2; Gillies 432-5, 996-8; Hennessy 1007-9; Laughren 916-22; Mackenzie 992-6; McCague 430-1, 912-7, 2572-3; McFadden 435-7; McLean 1009-10; Morin-Strom 998-1001; R.F. Nixon 422, 437-40, 912, 1010-1, 2570; Stephenson 422-5; Villeneuve 990-2; Wildman 923-5, 988-90.

Support payments (*see* Alimony/support payments) (*see* Family law orders)

Surety, bail (*see* Bail/hearings)

Surgical procedures

Elston 1562; Morin-Strom 1562; Wildman 1562.

Surrey Place Centre

Cousens 3199; R.F. Johnston 2445-6, 3223; Sweeney 2445-7, 3199, 3223-4.

Surveys, public opinion (*see* Polls, public opinion)

Suspension of sitting

1562, 2112, 2289, 4011.

Tabled documents other than reports

Pay equity task force paper 1593.

Takeovers, corporate (*see* Mergers/takeovers, corporate)

Tar spillage/leakage (*see* Spillage/leakage, hazardous products/waste)

Tariffs/duties

Andrewes 651, 3200; Barlow R989, R992; Brandt 100, 768-9, 1339; D.R. Cooke 2387-92; Ferraro 2409; Grande 1523-4, G282-3; Grossman 1523, 1813-4, 1818; Harris 4099; Hennessy 2392-3; Mackenzie 2404-7; Marland G280; McFadden 435-6, 2400; McGuigan 2398-400; McKessock 651; F.S. Miller 1560; Morin-Strom 1281-5, 1385, 1818-9, 2409-10, R997, R1001, R1005; Munro G299-300; R.F. Nixon 683; O'Neil 100, 767-8, 1385, 4099, R982-4, R987, R1007-8; Peterson 409, 897, 1338-40, 1385, 1522-4, 1560-1, 1813-4, 1818-9; Rae 769-70, 1337-9, 1522, 1560-1, 1813-4, 1817-8, 2393-7; Riddell 648, 651, 3200; D.W. Smith R1010; Stevenson 648, 2407-9.

Task force, employment and new technology

R. Brown R518, R525; Gillies R518; Mackenzie R518; Partington G417; Sorbara G407; Wrye R517.

Task force, financing farm operations

Riddell R296.

Task force, health/safety in agriculture

Gillies R563, R630-1; Wrye 1980-1, R623, R630-2.

Task force, hours of work and overtime

Hours of work and overtime task force 3370.

Task force, insurance industry, re

Eakins T49-50; Kwinter 2867; Rowe T24.

Task force, mandatory retirement

Wrye 2729-30.

Task force, midwifery

Elston 3373.

Task force, St. Clair River pollution

Bradley 3615.

Task forces, re

Eakins T5; Peterson 3437-8; Rae 3437-8; Rowe T25.

Taverns/dining lounges

Wildman 1952.

Tax, accommodation (*see* Tax, transient accommodation)

Tax, ad valorem

Brandt 1273-4; Warner 260, 1197-8.

Tax, capital gains

Callahan 1195-6; McCague 978-9; Munro 1150-1; R.F. Nixon 978-9, 1058.

Tax, corporation

Andrewes 1401-2, 2323-4, 2330-4, 2498; G.H. Dean 1391-2, 1577; Eves 1402-3; Foulds 1144-5, 1392-3, 2313-8, 2328; Grossman 1161-2; Guindon 1395; Harris 1396-400, 2324-30, 2335-7; Lupusella 1395-6; McCague 1400-1, 2497-8; F.S. Miller 1393-5; Morin-Strom 1280; R.F. Nixon 1059, 1136-7, 1161-2, 1390-1, 1403-6, 1570, 2313-7, 2323-4, 2327-8, 2331-5, 2497-8; Rae 686, 1136; Shymko 1363.

Tax, energy

Allan R789-91; Kerrio R790; McGuigan R790; J.A. Taylor R791.

Tax, gasoline/motor fuels

Andrewes 1722-4, 2058-63, 2555, 2561-6, 2569, 4066; Ashe 1724-5, 2103-5; Baetz 1644-5; Barlow 1647-50, 2070-2; Bennett 211; Bernier 1163, 2309-11, 2954-5; Brandt 1273-4; Breaugh 1188-9; Cousens

1717-20; Cureatz 2280-3; G.H. Dean 1220, 1635-9, 2304-9; Eakins 211; Eves 1654-7; Fontaine 1162-3; Foulds 1163, 1639, 2063-6, 2568-70; Gillies 1650-4, 2089-97; Gordon 1711-7; Grossman 2046-7; Guindon 1642-3; Haggerty 1640-1; Harris 1131-3, 1164; Hennessy 1642, 2077-8; Lane 2099-100; Lupusella 1745; Mancini 2100-2; Martel 1164, 1319-20, 2263-6; McCague 1114, 1462, 2261-3, 2569; McLean 1318, 1639-40, 2266-8; F.S. Miller 1099, 1231-2; Morin-Strom 1163, 1280-1, 2097-9; R.F. Nixon 1131-4, 1162-4, 1462, 1635, 1708-9, 1725-6, 2058, 2311-2, 2553-5, 2562-4, 2566-8, 4065-6; O'Connor 1720-2, 2277-80; Partington 1641-2, 2274; Peterson 1099, 1231-2, 2046-7, 2056; Pierce 1643-4, 2268-71; Pouliot 1163, 2072-3; Rae 1099, 1132-4, 1162; Ramsay 1173-4, 2076-7; Rowe 1645-7, 2271-4; Runciman 2056; Sargent 1645; Sheppard 1193, 1707-8, 2275-7; Shymko 1361-2, 2552-5; Stevenson 2066-8; Villeneuve 1709-11, 2073-6; Warner 1203-4, 2068-70; Wildman 1162, 2085-9; Wiseman 1644.

Tax, hotel (*see* Tax, transient accommodation)

Tax, income

Andrewes 2960; R.F. Nixon 1058-9, 2960.

Tax, income, provincial

Andrewes 2501-4; Ashe 1421-3; G.H. Dean 1407, 2505; Foulds 1005-6, 1407-10, 2499-501, 2502-4; Gillies 1410-1; Harris 1411-3, 1419-21; McCague 1113-4, 1421, 1461-2, 1524, 1670-1, 2504-5; Morin-Strom 1280; R.F. Nixon 1407, 1423-4, 1461-2, 1524, 1671, 2499-502, 2504-6.

Tax, land transfer

Andrewes 1495-6, 2540-1, 2546; Brandt 2545-6; Callahan 1491; Cureatz 1491-5; G.H. Dean 1219-20, 1436; Foulds 1436, 2545; Gregory 1105; Harris 2543-5, 2547; Lupusella 2547-8; R.F. Nixon 1105-6, 1435-6, 1496, 2541, 2543, 2546-7; Partington 1489-91, 2541-3; Pierce 1437; Runciman 1436-7.

Tax, meals/prepared food

Barlow 3782-4; Brandt 1276; Foulds 1143; R.F. Nixon 3784; Warner 1204.

Tax, mining/revenue

Bernier 3922; Fontaine 3880-1, 3923-4; Munro 1153; R.F. Nixon 1060, 1106; Pierce 1290; Ramsay 1174.

Tax, property

G.H. Dean 648; Fontaine 3265; Gregory 1345; Lupusella 1580-5, 1747-51; Morin-Strom 1281; R.F. Nixon 458, 641, 647-8, 1345-6; Philip 1353-6; Reville 457-8, 648.

Tax, resource

Martel 1671-2; R.F. Nixon 1672.

Tax, sales

Andrewes 2506-7, 2509-11; Ashe 1427-8; Barlow R993; G.H. Dean 1424-5; Foulds 1145, 1425-7, 2508-9, 2512-3; Harris 1430-2, 2513-5; Leluk 1341-2; Lupusella 1428-9, 1579, 1746, 2538-40; McCague 1114, 1433, 2538; McClellan 1429-30; F.S. Miller 836-7; Morin-Strom 1280; Munro 1341-2; R.F. Nixon 1059-60, 1424, 1433-5, 2506-8, 2511-2, 2537-40; Pouliot 1432-3.

Tax, school

Lupusella 1582.

Tax, surplus, school (*see* Tax, school)

Tax, tobacco

Andrewes 1504-5, 2548-50; Brandt 1507; Cureatz 1509, 1531-7; G.H. Dean 1497; Elston 2236-7; Foulds 1497; Gillies 1500-2; Grande 2550; Guindon 1503-4; Harris 1505-7; Lupusella 1498, 2550; McCague 1498-500; McGuigan 1507-9; G.I. Miller 1502-3; R.C. Mitchell 1537-8; R.F. Nixon 1496-7, 1539, 2550-2; Sterling 2236-7; Villeneuve 1538-9.

Tax, transient accommodation

Eakins T31-3; Grande T31-4; McCall T 34; Rowe T25-6, T37.

Tax credit, property

Lupusella 344-5.

Tax credit/exemptions, small business

Foulds 1736-7; Gregory 1736-7; F.S. Miller 1336; R.F. Nixon 1336, 1736-7, 1753; Rae 281; Stephenson 281.

Tax credits/rebates

Bernier 3247-8; Fontaine 3268; Foulds 1145.

Tax exemptions

R.F. Nixon 1058, 3550-1; Rae 3550-1.

Tax exemptions, artists

Leluk 1341-2; Munro 1341-2, 1388.

Tax grants, senior citizens

Cordiano 213; Lupusella 1745; R.F. Nixon 1335-6, 1756.

Tax incentives/expenditures

Foulds 1102-3; R.F. Nixon 1102-3.

Tax rebates (*see* Tax credits/ rebates)

Tax reform

Foulds 426, 1144-6; R.F. Nixon 439.

Tax refund discounters

Breaugh 1894-6; Callahan 1899-900; Gillies 1893-4; R.F. Johnston 1898-9; Morin 1890-3; Offer 1896-7; Treleaven 1897-8.

Taxation policy

Breaugh 1184; Eakins T30; Eves 1173; Knight 1192; McCaffrey 240.

Taxes, provincial

Andrewes 2960; Brandt 1271-6, 1278; Callahan 1195; Ferraro 1315-6; Grandmaître 1223; Lupusella 1579; Mackenzie 1367; McCague 1113-4; F.S. Miller 1101, 1378-9; Morin-Strom 1279-81; Munro 1150-1; R.F. Nixon 1058-60, 1101, 1569-70, 2960; Warner 1197-8, 1208-9.

Taxicabs/drivers

Grandmaître 2628.

Teachers, elementary school

Allen 3849; Conway 3849; Davis 3849.

Teachers, secondary school

Conway 3849; Davis 3849.

Teachers, surplus/shortage

McFadden G367.

Teachers' right to strike (*see* School board-teacher relations)

Teachers' superannuation/fund

Allen 4046-8, 4075, S2325-30, S2332, S2335-8; Davis 4045-6, 4053, S2304, S2311-2, S2317; Gordon 4048-50, 4054; Harris 4050-1, 4053; Henderson S2336; Ilkiw S2303, S2305-10; Kidd S2301-5, S2307-12; Malloy S2308; McClellan 4050; R.F. Nixon 3851-2, 4043-5, 4051-4, 4075-6, 4084; Offer S2329; Reville S2332; Reycraft S2328-33, S2335; Stephenson 4055, 4074-5, 4084.

Teacher-school board relations (*see* School board-teacher relations)

Technology centre, CAD/CAM (*see* Computer-aided design/ manufacturing/technology centre)

Technology centres

Barlow R995, R1015, R1020; Grossman 337-8; Morin-Strom R1002, R1019; O'Neil R987, R1014-5, R1019-20; J.A. Taylor R1019.

Technology/science

Barlow R991; Caplan 2007, 2211; G.H. Dean 1575; Foulds 333; Gillies R492-4; Grandmaître R815; Grossman 337; Mackenzie R513-4; McFadden G363-4; R.F. Nixon 1572-3, 1751-2; O'Connor 42; O'Neil R986-7; Peterson 72-3; Stephenson 2012; Wrye R486, R517.

Telecommunication services (*see* Communications/services)

Telephone rates

Fulton 419-20, 502, 533, 544; Swart 419, 544.

Telephone service, government

Caplan 1960, 1970, 1995-6, 3930-1; Cousens 3930; Philip 1966; Villeneuve 1961-2.

Television, legislative proceedings

Brannan G10; Breaugh 478, 656-7, 797-8, 873-6; Callahan 475, 890-1; Gregory G10; Henderson 886-8; J.M. Johnson 888-9; Mancini 876-9; Marland 885-6; Martel 655, 1929; Newman 881-2; R.F. Nixon 655-6, 883-5; Pierce 891-2; Shymko 1365; Sterling 879-81; Treleaven 882-3; Warner 889-90.

Television scanners (*see* Electronic surveillance)

Television towers

Bradley 541; Brandt 541; Grier 541.

Tenants (*see* Landlord/tenant)

Tendering, government

Caplan 1968-9; Eakins T90; Grossman 2698-9; Kerrio 1342; McDonald T86-9; Peterson 2698-9; Philip 1965, 1969, 2016; Pierce 1342; Pouliot T88-9; Rowe T86-9; Wildman 1342.

Termination pay/entitlement (*see* Severance pay)

Tests, university admission (*see* University/college admission requirements/accessibility)

Textbooks/educational materials

Conway 4009-10; Davis 4010; Grande 4009-10.

Theatre (*see* Arts/theatre)

Theological colleges (*see* Schools, theological)

Thom inquiry (*see* Commission, rent review study)

Throne speech

4-13.

Throne speech debate

Allen 269-71; Brandt 252-6; Callahan 108-9; Caplan 250-1; Charlton 197-201; D.R. Cooke 226-8; Cordiano 348-50; Curling 121-3; Davis 346-8; R.G. Elgie 158; Ferraro 350; Fish 290; Foulds 306-7, 331-4; Gigantes 187-91; Gillies 179-84; Grandmaître 350-1; Grier 109-11; Grossman 334-40; Guindon 263-6; Hayes 251-2; Henderson 195-7; Jackson 190-5; Knight 294-5; Laughren 295-301; Leluk 301-3; Lupusella 343-7; Mackenzie 167-72; Mancini 124-6, 152-5; Marland 45-51; McCaffrey 239-43, 249-50; McClellan 375-81; McFadden 230-4; F.S. Miller 386-92; Morin-Strom 236-9; Munro 303-6; R.F. Nixon 381-6; O'Connor 39-45; Offer 234-6; Partington 106-8; Peterson 69-74; Pierce 223-6; Poirier 340-3; Rae 74-83; Ramsay 155-8; Reville 228-30; Sargent 184-7; Shymko 111-21; E.J. Smith 266-9; Sterling 123-4; Van Horne 163-7; Ward 256-8; Warner 258-63.

Tile drainage (*see* Drainage/ program)

Time allocation motions/ resolutions

Breaugh 1922; Martel 1933.

Time allocation motions/ resolutions, re

Martel 658.

Tissues, human (*see* Medical transplants)

Tobacco growers (*see* Farming, tobacco)

Tobacco smoking (*see* Smoking, tobacco)

Toronto Apartment Buildings Co.

McClellan 1043-4, 1297, 1739-40, 2636; O'Connor 2636; I.G. Scott 1043-4, 1297, 1739-40, 2636-7.

Toronto General Hospital

Martel R641.

Tourism and Recreation Ministry/ personnel

Eakins 2189, 2967-9, T4, T29, T38; Keenan T38, T43-5, T51; Pouliot T11-2, T54; Rowe 2189, 2967-9, 3705, T14-5, T 23, T37-8, T42-5, T50-1; Sharpe T50-1.

Tourism attractions

Eakins T9-10, T55; Fontaine 3927-8; McGuigan T55-6; Rowe T28, T55.

Tourism development/promotion

Baetz 1140-1; Bennett 135-6, 211-2; Bernier 2955-7; Eakins 211-2, 1140-1, T 50; Fontaine 2945-6, 3971, 3979-80, 3983-4; Guindon 266; Lane 3981-2; McCall T35; Pierce 225; Poirier 342; Pouliot 1140; Ramsay 1175; Sheppard T 35.

Tourism industry

Bernier 3926-8; Eakins 1956, T3-6, T 30-1; Fontaine 3265-6, 3881, 3893, 3927-8; McCague 1119; McLean 1010; Morin-Strom 238; Pierce 1290-1, 3898-9; Pouliot T12-4; Rowe 1956, T15-6, T26; Sheppard T16-7; Stevenson 1179.

Tourist information/reception centres

Eakins T54; Fontaine 3265-6; McCall T 54; Rowe T54, T90.

Tourist promotion (*see* Tourism development/promotion)

Tourist reception centres (*see* Tourist information/reception centres)

Toxic products (*see* Hazardous products) (*see* Health hazards) (*see* Chemicals, noxious/ hazardous)

Toxicology/centres

Frank R395-6; Stevenson R395-6.

Toyota Motor Corp.

Barlow 2345, R990, R1015; Bernier 3248; Fontaine 3268; Foulds 1603; Lavelle R1010; F.S. Miller 1602-3; Morin-Strom R995-6; O'Neil 1602-3, 2345, R983, R1015-6; Sorbara G412.

Trade/convention centres

Eakins T10-1, T67-8; Maxwell T67-8; McCabe T66-7; Rowe T25, T67-8; Sheppard T66-8.

Trade deficits

Morin-Strom R1004.

Trade/development, international

Allanson R1009; Barlow R991-2; O'Neil R984-5, R988, R1011; Peterson 897-8; D.W. Smith R1009-10.

Trade missions/offices

Allanson R1008-9; Andrewes 4091; Barlow R989; Collin R302; Kwinter 1605-6; F.S. Miller 2987-8; Morin-Strom R996-7; O'Neil 1604-5, 1667-8, R982-3, R1008; Peterson 1667, 2987-8; Rae 1605-6, 1667, 2988; Riddell R328; Runciman 1604-5, 1666-8; Stevenson R308; J.A. Taylor R1008.

Traffic flow

Eakins T39; Maxwell T68; McGuigan T 39; Sheppard T68.

Traffic/parking violations

I.G. Scott 2121.

Trails/council

Eakins T40; Sheppard T40.

Training schools, correctional

Sheppard 1951; Sweeney 1951.

Transfer payments (*see* Grants)

Transfer payments, federal (*see* Financing established programs, federal)

Transit, public

Barlow 1306-7; Charlton R672-3, R678; Fulton 4006; Hayes 4006; R.F. Johnston 4006; R.F. Nixon 1306-7.

Transit fare system

Fulton 2707; Reville 2707.

Transition houses, women's (*see* Hostels/shelters, emergency)

Translators/services

Bossy R959-60; Caplan 1970; Grandmaître R961, R964-5, R966, R971; Guindon R960-1, R966; Mancini R961; McGuigan R961-2; Pouliot R961, R965-6; Shymko R960-1, R970, R977; Villeneuve 1962.

Transportation

Cousens 1003; McCague 89-90, 103; R.F. Nixon 103.

Transportation, ALRT

Foulds 373-5; McCague 89-90, 374; Stephenson 373-5.

Transportation, forest products

Bernier 3922; Fontaine 3923.

Transportation, hazardous products

Bradley 494-5; Fulton 422, 460-1; Hayes 422, 461; Riddell 462; Stevenson 462.

Transportation, health (*see* Health travel/costs)

Transportation, medical (*see* Health travel/costs)

Transportation, northern Ontario

Bernier 653, 2119, 2957-8, 3921-2, 3924-5; Fontaine 642-3, 653, 1048-9, 2119, 2180, 2945, 3881, 3919, 3923-5; Harris 1048-9; Pierce 1289, 2118-9, 2179-80, 3901; Pouliot 2119; Wildman 1049.

Transportation, truck (*see* Trucking industry)

Transportation, urban (*see* Transit, public)

Transportation and Communications Ministry/ personnel

Otterman A16; Wildman A16-7.

Transportation development corp. (*see* Urban Transportation Development Corp.)

Transportation systems, municipal/regional (*see* Transit, public)

Trapping

Harris 3382-3; Kerrio 3382-3; Laughren 3383.

Trauma units/centres (*see* Hospital emergency services)

Travel/costs, health (*see* Health travel/costs)

Tribute, Archie Campbell

O'Connor 3368-9; Peterson 3368; Rae 3369; I.G. Scott 3368.

Tribute, Frank S. Miller

Harris 1661; Peterson 1552, 1661-2; Rae 1553, 1662.

Tribute, John Black Aird

Peterson 771; Rae 772; Stephenson 771-2.

Tribute, John M. Turner

F.S. Miller 25, 1698-9; Peterson 25, 1698; Rae 25-6, 1699.

Tribute, L.S. Grossman

Conway 1782-3; Rae 1782.

Tribute, Peter Loughheed

F.S. Miller 404-5; Peterson 404; Rae 405.

Tribute, R.K. McNeil

Grossman 3613; Peterson 3613-4; Rae 3614.

Tribute, René Lévesque

F.S. Miller 404-5; Peterson 404; Rae 405.

Trillium Exploration Corp.

Kruger R778-9.

Trillium Foundation

Eakins T9, T43; Rowe T42-3.

Tripartite stabilization program, farm (*see* Farm income stabilization program)

Tritium

Harris 146, 326; Sargent 145-6, 186; Wildman 146.

Trucking industry

Fulton 3690, 4008; Gregory 3690, 3850, 4008; Hayes 4008; Kwinter 1950, 1952, 1981-2; Philip 1951-2.

Trucking rates (*see* Freight/ trucking rates)

Trust/loan companies

Grossman 2929-30; Kwinter 2585-6, 2704; Peterson 2929-30; Rae 2929; Runciman 206-7; Swart 2704.

Tuition fees

Bryden 2639; R.F. Nixon 1058; Sorbara 2639-40, G361.

TVOntario

Marland G281; Munro G272, G333-5; Peterson 4072; Rae 4072.

Ukrainian independence day

Shymko 3433.

Unemployment, northern Ontario

Fontaine 1675-6, 2940; Martel 1319; Morin-Strom 999, 1675-6; R.F. Nixon 1056, 1672.

Unemployment, youth

Callahan 1194; Fontaine 3891; Foulds 1147; Gillies 996-8; Laughren 920-1; McLean 1318; Munro 1152; R.F. Nixon 1056; Pierce 3897; Shymko 114-5; Sorbara 976-7; Warner 1205.

Unemployment/layoffs

Bennett 1779-81; Brandt 256, 1274-5, 3691; D.R. Cooke 227; D.S. Cooke 3947; G.H. Dean 906; Fontaine 3879; Foulds 331, 333, 686-7, 1146-9; Gillies 1990; Grossman 1161-2; Harris 4099; Hayes 3947; Lupusella 983; Martel 469; F.S. Miller 389; Morin-Strom 237, 1281; Munro 304; R.F. Nixon 687, 1161-2,

1378-9, 3443; O'Neil 1779-81, 3947, 4099; Peterson 906, 3691; Rae 1101; Shymko 1360-1; Warner 1205-6; Wildman 3256-7; Wrye 1990.

Unemployment/layoffs, Brant county

Gillies 1386-7; Mackenzie 1387; O'Neil 1387.

Unemployment/layoffs, Firestone Canada

Mackenzie 461-2; Wrye 449, 461-2.

Unemployment/layoffs, Great Lakes Forest Products

Foulds 4007; Gordon 4007; Hennessy 4006-7; Kerrio 4006-7.

Unemployment/layoffs, Hamilton

Gillies 2740; Mackenzie 2739; Wrye 2739-40.

Unemployment/layoffs, Pic River Forest Products

Fontaine 1566; Pouliot 1566.

Unemployment/layoffs, Sudbury

Fontaine 1668-9; Gordon 1106-7, 1669; Laughren 920-2; Martel 1322-4; R.F. Nixon 1106-7; Rae 1668-9; Sorbara 2583-4; Warner G420; Wrye 1669.

Union certification/first contract

Abella R602; Armstrong R601-2; Aynsley R602; Barlow 3724-6, R993; R.G. Elgie 162; Foulds 650-1, 693, 3726-8; Gillies 3559-64, R500, R602-3; Mackenzie 169-71, 760-1, 992-3, R503-7, R601-2; Martel 3576-9; Peterson 1816-7; Rae 1816-7, 3564-72, 4086; Reville 1811-2; Warner 260, 3572-6; Wrye 650-1, 692-3, 761, 1809-10, 3558-9, 3728-30, R485-6, R601-2.

Unions

Fontaine 3978-9.

Unions, international control

Mackenzie R515.

Unions, voting in

Armstrong R603; Aynsley R603; Gillies R603-4; Wrye R603-4.

Unit pricing (*see* Pricing, commodity)

United Nations anniversary

McClellan 1041-2; F.S. Miller 1041; Peterson 1041.

United States, fee to enter, proposed

Brandt 3197; Peterson 3197.

United States-Canada, business travel

J.M. Johnson 4100; O'Neil 4100.

United States-Ontario relations

Peterson 897-8.

United Way campaign

Caplan 2007; Elston 1608.

Universal product code (*see* Pricing, commodity)

Universities/colleges

Allen 2192; Bryden 2192, G367-73; McFadden 2192-3, G363-7; Morin-Strom 237; Munro 305; R.F. Nixon 1057-8, 2192-3; Sorbara 933-4, G357-63; Stephenson 2253-4; Van Horne 166; Warner 1212.

University, Waterloo

Bryden 2639; Sorbara 2639-40.

University/college admission requirements/accessibility

Allen R967-8; Conway 1458; Ferraro 1457-8.

University/college buildings/facilities

Bryden G370.

University/college courses/degrees

Sorbara G362.

University/college faculties

Sorbara 831-2.

University fees (*see* Tuition fees)

University financing (*see* Loans/grants, universities/colleges)

Uranium/prices

Martel 1462; Sargent 185-6; Wrye 1462.

Urban Transportation Development Corp.

Barlow R990; Brandt 903; Foulds 845-6, 903-4, 1005, 2296, 2701, 2732, 3311, 4007, 4063; Fulton 2189-90, 2417-8, 2697-8, 2731-2, 3122, 3128-30, 3705, 3845, 4063-4; Gregory 3705; Grossman 2188-9, 2226-30, 2292-6, 2417-8, 2420, 2460-3, 2526-7, 2697-8, 2701, 2731, 2982-4, 3845, 4007, 4063-4; Hennessy 846, 2190, 2732, 3129; R.F. Nixon 2226; O'Neil 2188-9, 2225-30, R990; Peterson 845-6, 902-4, 2292-6, 2419-21, 2460-4, 2700, 2982-4, 3311, 4007-8; Rae 902-3, 2188-90, 2225, 2228-30, 2292, 2294-6, 2417, 2419-20, 2460-4, 2526-7, 2697, 2700, 2983, 3128-30, 3845.

Vacations/holidays with pay

Barlow R538; Gillies R539; Mackenzie 1368, 1677, 2599, R508, R513, R537-8; Wrye R537-9.

Vaccines (*see* Immunization/ vaccine)

Valenite-Modco

D.S. Cooke 1166-7; Gordon 846, 1167, 1235; Martel 1166-7, 1237; I.G. Scott 1237; Wrye 846-7, 1166-7, 1235, 1237, 1665.

Variety Club/telethon

Peterson 3367; Rae 3367-8; Timbrell 3367.

Venture investment corporations

Kruger R779.

Veterinarians/services

Ashman R395; Frank R395-6; Henry R434-5, R438; D.W. Smith R438; Villeneuve R434-5.

Victim aid service (*see* Crime victims)

Violence, domestic

Eves 1172.

Visitors, introduction of

19, 59, 133, 135, 145, 277, 289, 403, 420, 449, 454, 493, 749, 897, 933, 1052, 1377, 1551, 1578, 2196, 2427, 2597, 2730, 2865, 2878, 2939, 3367, 3613, 3784, 3851.

Vital statistics

Fish 2913-4; Foulds 2922; Gigantes 2910-1, 2921; Morin-Strom 2922; O'Connor 2907-10, 2919; Partington 2911-2; Pope 209-10; I.G. Scott 1090, 2907, 2918-23; Warner 2912-3, 2923-4.

Vocational/trades training

Gillies 136-8, 329, 542, 1167-8, 1387, G441, G449; Lupusella 2595; Mackenzie 1368; McLean 1318; Munro 305, 1151-2; R.F. Nixon 1056, 1167-8; O'Connor 42; O'Neil 1387; Partington 2594-5, 3242, G414-5; Peterson 542-3; Shymko 115-6; Sorbara 575-7, 976-7, 2594-5, 3242, G407-9, G412-4, G431-2, G441-3, G448-52; Sterling 329; Tully G450; Warner 1205-6, 1213, G422, G442, G448; Wrye 749-50.

Volunteer groups/organizations

Eakins T7; Leluk G276; Munro G270-1.

Wage, minimum

Allen 3308-9, 3720; Gillies 2989, R554; Mackenzie 2988-9, R554; Partington 3242; Sorbara 3242; Sweeney 3308-9, 3720; Warner 1956; Wrye 1956, 2988-9, R488, R554-5.

Wage protection (*see* Salary protection)

Wages/salaries

Caplan 1095-6, 2691, 3481, 3780-2; D.S. Cooke 3481, 3775; R.G. Elgie 149-50; Elston 3775-6; Foulds 1527; Fulton 1527; Gillies 1819; Hennessy 1050, 1439-40; Kerrio 1050, 1377-8, 1439-40, 1457, 1731-2, 2198; Mackenzie 149, 171-2, R612; Morin-Strom 1050, 1438, 1457; O'Connor 2690-1; Pierce 2198; Pope 3774-5; Stephenson 2013, 3780-2; Wildman 3988-9; Wrye 1819.

Warranties, motor vehicle

Runciman 134, 326; Swart 326, 357.

Warrants, special

Ashe 19; Bryden G373; Burak R441-2; D.W. Smith R441-2.

Warrants, special, re

Keith R371; D.W. Smith R371.

Waste, illegal dumping

Fish 99; Munro 99.

Waste, industrial/liquid

Bradley 642; Fish 291-2.

Waste, nuclear/radioactive

T. Campbell R739-40; Gordon R716; Haggerty R739-40; Horton R747; Kerrio R715-6, R747; Pierce R715-6, R747; Shervill R715.

Waste disposal/management

Bradley 2966-7; Breaugh R822; Fish 2966; Mackenzie 3244.

Waste recycling

Allan R798; Kerrio R798; G.I. Miller R753; Niitenberg R753-4.

Water, contaminated (*see* Pollution, water)

Water, drinking

Bernier 1240; Bossy 3649-51; Bradley 1240-1, 1559, 1777-8, 2876-7, 3617-20, 3625-6, 3629-30, 3632-3, 3687-90; Brandt 1559, 1778, 3626, 3637-9; Breaugh 3648-9; Charlton 3639-40; D.S. Cooke 3626, 3643-5; Elston 3714-5; Fish 2876, 3620, 3633-5, 3687, 3690, 3714-5; Grier 1677, 1777-8, 2876, 3618-20, 3625, 3629, 3687-9, 3714-5; Grossman 3617-8; Harris 3646-8; Hayes 3620, 3635; Mancini 3645-6; Rae 3618-9; D.W. Smith 3640-2; Stevenson 3642-3; Wrye 3635-7.

Water diversion/export

Bradley 2807; Fish 2801, 2807; Harris 207-8; Morin-Strom 2801; Peterson 1560, 2801.

Water heaters

T. Campbell R741-2; Niitenberg R742; Pierce R742.

Water levels, Great Lakes

T. Campbell R753; Kerrio R752; McGuigan R751-3; G.I. Miller R753.

Water power (*see* Hydro generators, small/hydraulic)

Water/sewer services

Bradley 1385; Brandt 1385, R817-8; Breaugh R820; Grandmaître R825.

Water testing

Bradley 1240-1, 1451; Pouliot 1240.

Water treatment

Bradley 2876-7; Brandt 3868-70; Charlton 3870-1; Fish 2876; Grier 2876, 3865-6; Haggerty 3866-8; D.W. Smith 3871-2; South 3863-5, 3872.

Waterfront development

Mackenzie 1371.

Watts from waste program (*see* Energy from waste program)

Waybills, industrial waste (*see* Waste, industrial/liquid)

Weighting factor, education (*see* Loans/grants, universities/colleges) (*see* Loans/grants, school boards)

Weiler report (*see* Workers, disabled/injured) (*see* Workers' compensation/board)

Welfare, municipal/regional (*see* Welfare assistance, general)

Welfare assistance, general

Cousens 1987; R.F. Johnston 1986-7; Sweeney 1229-30, 1986-7.

Welfare benefits (*see* Family benefits assistance)

Welfare recipients

Laughren 920-1.

Wetlands

Fish 4009; Kerrio 2803-4, 4008-9; Laughren 2803-4, 4008-9; Ramsay R324; D.W. Smith R414, R425.

Whitchurch-Stouffville landfill site (*see* Stouffville landfill site)

White Farm Manufacturing Canada Ltd.

Gillies 432-3, 649, 759, 1386-7; Morin-Strom 650, 759; R.F. Nixon 437-8, 758-60; O'Neil 649-50; Rae 758-9; Wrye 749-50.

White papers (*see* Tabled documents other than reports)

Wild rice

Bernier 3245; Fontaine 2947, 3267.

Wildlife/management

Harris 357, 796; Kerrio 796-7, 3707; Wildman 796.

Wildlife sanctuaries

Rennie R394-5; Stevenson R394-5.

Willett Hospital

Elston 1238, 2231, 2990-1; Gillies 2231, 2990-1; Timbrell 1238.

Wind power (*see* Energy, solar/wind)

Windbreaks/hedges

Riley, T. S1212-9.

Wine (*see* Liquor/beer/wine)

Wine, home-made

Andrewes 1954; Kwinter 1954.

Wine, Ontario made

Andrewes 1258-60; Barlow R990; Bradley 1264; G.H. Dean 1262-4; Mancini 1261-2; Offer 1257-8; Partington 1254-6, 1264; Pouliot 1264; Ramsay 1260-1; Swart 1256-7.

Wine, South African

Kwinter 543, 637, 1050, 1107; Runciman 1050; Warner 543, 636-7, 641, 1050, 1107, 1215.

Wine, unsafe/contaminated

Andrewes 1517-8; Gigantes 2300; Harris 1452-3; Kwinter 1241-2, 1447-9, 1452-3, 1518, 2300, 2349-50, 2589-90; Partington 2350; Rae 1452-3; Runciman 2350; I.G. Scott 1663; Swart 2300, 2350, 2589; Timbrell 2589.

Wintario (*see* Lottery, Wintario)

Wintario distribution (*see* Lottery ticket distributors)

Winter/seasonal works (*see* Employment, seasonal)

Wiretapping (*see* Electronic surveillance)

Witnesses, court

O'Connor J16-7, J24; I.G. Scott J11.

Witnesses, education amendment act committee

Albanese, A. S1745-53; Albert, R. S300-5, S307-10, S312-33, S2170-2, S2175; Allen, Roger S1951-7; Amber, M. S1180-2; Amenta, S.A. S1893-9; Anderson, D.V. S609-13; Anderson, R. S206-7, S209-10, S214-5, S221; Andrews, J. S1414; Andrews, P. S344-7; Arbour, R. S648, S651, S654; Argyle, R. S862-7; Aronchick, B. S1584-5; Atkin, J.R. S613-9; Austin, R. S1637; Aylsworth, D. S2314-6, S2318-20; Baar, C. S1910-4; Babb, C. S2001; Babineau, B. S1813-8; Baker, E. S1692-4; Barber, T. S2093-7; Barker, H.W. S416-20; Barkley, E. S768-78, S1467-73; Barnett, G. S589-98, S1934; Baty, B. S2098-100; Baumann, R. S305-16, S320-1, S323-4, S330-2; Bawden, M. S1510-4, S1728-31; Becker, D. S1447, S1451-2, S1454; Bedard, L. S551-6; Beevor, W. S2044-6; Bester, K. S2207-8; Bethune, J. S310-1, S314-6, S323, S331; Bhadauria, J. S2128-33; Birch, R.G. S1255-6; Bissoon, E. S496-7, S499-500; Boehler, E. S176-89; Boich, J. S1451-2; Boich, J. S1799-803; Bolger, W.P. S903-11; Bonk, J. S1851-5; Booth, R.G. S647; Borovoy, A.A. S959-65; Boston, W.F. S1970-3; Boswell, R.B. S1427-31; Boulerice, J. S1958-64; Boyle, P. S1328-9, S1331-5; Bracken, D. S2101; Brennan, M. S1617-20; Brennan, P.J. S1645-50; Brewer, J. S1850-1, S1853, S1855; Brown, C.G. S2238; Brunelle, A. S389-90; Buchanan, M. S755-60; Buchanan, Malcolm S145, S150-2; Buchanan, P. S758-9; Bujold, B. S658-9; Burford, F.J. S606-9, S612-3; Burke, S. S1319-28; Burns, J. S1671; Butt, B. S1367-8; Byrne, L. S412, S414; Byrnes, C.G. S1614-7; Cain, B.F. S1825-8; Calvert, J. S403, S407-16, S1173, S1175-6; Campbell, B. S1796-8, S1800, S1802-3; Campbell, K. S1376-84; Campbell, S. S1866-71, S1873-4; Carey, J. S154, S156-7; Carr, G. S1769-74; Carroll, P. S1125-33; Carter, G. S1527-9; Cavalluzzo, P. S174-6; Chalmers, R.N. S967-71; Clark, D. S1133; Cole, S.H. S557-60; Collie, M.P. S581-8; Connolly, M. S1597-9, S1601; Coomber, J. S791-2, S796; Corlett, K.H. S2073-8; Correa, A. S381-3, S385-6; Coté, R.M. S1808-13; Coulter, S. S1053; Cowan, C.A. S584; Cowan, M. S1073-4, S1076-7; Cowden, P. S1208; Crawford, R.E. S561-5; Crewe, N. S1784-6; Cunko, J. S1619; Cushman, W. S946-7; Darcy, J. S1167-72, S1175, S1177, S1179; Davis, Hon. W.G. S1347-60; Day, W. S813-7; Deans, M. S1774-80; Dehler, D. S1830-3; Deland, K. S1661-2; Dennis, M. S2207, S2209; DePoe, D. S2188-95; Desjardins, R. S1515-20; de Valk, A. S2067-73; Devine, W. S817; Devlin, G. S488; Devlin, I. S484-8; Devlin, J. S1841-4; Dewey, C. S516-9, S521-2, S529, S531; Dewling, E. S1609-10, S1613-4, S1616; Dignard, D. S1909; Dillon, C. S2103; Di Stasi, D. S245-51; Diston, D. S1411-3; Dobell, C.J. S1291-3, S1296-300; Doctorow, G. S493-4, S499-500, S502-3; Dodd, P. S1844-8; Dodds, D. S732-5, S739-44; Dodds, R.A. S1091-103; Doern, B. S1625-8; Donevan, K S1055-8, S1060, S1146-9; Dooley, D.J. S2151-4; Doyle, S. S1086-91; Duffey, Joseph S1211; Duffy, J. S203, S206, S208-19, S221-2; Durocher, R. S1226, S1233; Durst, W.H. S2097-103; Dyck, P. S823-38; Eadie, C. S337-44; Eaton, D.

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